MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 APRIL 1981

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Chatti Denial--Following an accusation by the Iranian Foreign Ministry that he is biased in favor of Iraq, Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti has denied making the statement on which Iran based its accusation. Chatti, who is spokesman for the Islamic Conference committee mediating between Iran and Iraq, also told AFP that he has never commented publicly on any aspect of the actual combat between the two countries. Noting that the Iranian Foreign Ministry did not give the source of the statement he was alleged to have made, he said the ministry, acting in good faith, had taken a fabricated report seriously.

Military Situation--An Iranian Joint Staff communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, claimed that ground, air and guard units attacked Iraqi forces west of Dezful, killing more than 200 and occupying Iraqi positions. It also said that, because of an "accident," an Iranian fighter aircraft had gone down in the Bushehr region, killing both pilots. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, did not mention a battle near Dezful, but claimed Iraqi aircraft had attacked an Iranian convoy in that region, scoring direct hits and returning safely to base. It also claimed that 223 Iranians had been killed in various clahses, with most casualties occurring in the Shush and Susangerd regions.

Iran

Khomeyni Speech--In a speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni reiterated his warnings about troublemakers, charging that groups connected to the shah's regime have been using the opportunity of the war to create dissent and unrest, especially in Azarbayjan. He told the gathering in Tehran's Hoseyniyeh Jamaran that certain individuals in the theological centers of Tehran, Qom and Mashhad must stop making trouble or face prosecution by the courts.

Israel

Begin Interview--In an interview broadcast by Jerusalem television, Prime Minister Begin confirmed that Israel has provided aid to the Christians in Lebanon, but he declined to give details. He denied that Israel controls Maj Sa'd Haddad, leader of the Christian militia forces in southern Lebanon, but admitted that it does have influence with him, which it uses in efforts to prevent militia attacks on the UNIFIL forces. Praising the "new emphasis" of U.S. policy in the Middle East, Begin said the Reagan administration, unlike that of Carter, does not view the Syrian presence in Lebanon as a stabilizing factor, regards Syria as a Soviet base and views the PLO as an agent of the Soviet Union. However, he criticized the U.S. plan to sell AWACS aircraft and other advanced military equipment to Saudi Arabia, saying Israel is waging a determined campaign against the plan by lobbying members of the executive branch and of Congress.

Balloon Shot Down--Citing an IDF spokesman, Jerusalem radio reported that IDF forces had shot down a balloon flying toward Israel from Lebanon. Several dead terrorists were found near the balloon, it added. KUNA later reported that it had received a call from a Palestinian Liberation Front spokesman saying the balloon belonged to the front and that those aboard had attacked an Israeli settlement according to plan.

Lebanon

Beirut, Zahlah Calm--Beirut radio reported that Beirut and Zahlah remained calm, although sporadic gunfire could be heard in the capital. According to a Voice of Lebanon report, Syrian troops are enforcing a blockade of Zahlah and have refused entry to a UN delegation.

Merchant Ship Sunk--According to Beirut radio, a merchant ship anchored at Siddon exploded and sunk on 16 April. AFP reported that the ship had been dynamited by Israeli frogmen.

Afghanistan

Citing a news agency run by the Afghan Muslim resistance, AFP reported that after launching an offensive in Qandahar, Soviet troops have recaptured part of the city, which has reportedly been under rebel control for several months. The agency said violent fighting is continuing, but Soviet and Afghan troops have improved their position and have received reinforcements flown in by helicopter. Meanwhile, Kabul radio reported that Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's special representative on Afghanistan, had arrived in Kabul from Islamabad and had met with Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost. According to Karachi radio, Perez de Cuellar had earlier said the purpose of his visits to Pakistan and Afghanistan is to assist Waldheim's efforts to find a political solution to the Afghanistan issue.

DAILY REPORT

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 073 16 April 1981

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DELEGATES SPEAK AT PNC SESSION; MEDIA COMMENT

Salah Khalaf Address

JN160808 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Damascus--The Palestine National Council [PNC] will resume its meetings at 1000 today to discuss items listed on its agenda. The PNC met yesterday evening under PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud Hadid; Dr Muhsin Bilal, head of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; PLO Executive Committee members; and secretaries general of the Palestinian resistance factions.

Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, delivered a speech praising Syria's steadfastness against the imperialist-Zionist campaigns and the Camp David scheme. Salah Khalaf said: We must work to consolidate the Syrian-Palestinian solidarity with the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in order to foil the U.S.-Zionist-isolationist conspiracy being concocted by Israel in Lebanon against the Lebanese people, the Palestinian revolution and steadfast Syria.

Salah Khalaf revealed the Phalangists' continuous contacts with the Zionists and the support the isolationists are receiving from the Zionist entity to peddle the conspiracy and transform Lebanon into fragile sectarian entities that will be subjected to the Zionist enemy's control.

Speaking about the Jordanian regime, Salah Khalaf said: We have suffered much from this regime. We know the objectives and designs of this regime and what the men of this regime are doing to our people. All dialogue with this regime must be suspended and alternate methods for the work of the Jordanian-Palestinan Joint Committee must be found.

Salah Khalaf called for the consolidation of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation.

On the European initiative Salah Khalaf said: There is no such thing as the European initiative. There are European ideas within the framework of U.S. policy.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war Salah Khalaf said: We are against this war and we shall do our best to end this war.

Concluding his speech, Salah Khalaf addressed greetings to Syria and said: We and Syria are in the same trench and our weapons and their weapons are directed toward confronting the danger in the Arab area.

PRC Delegate Speech

JN151807 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The Palestine National Council [PNC] this evening will end its general discussion of all the current developments. Tomorrow, Thursday, it will begin closed working sessions in the council of the political, financial, occupied land, military, and legal committees. The PNC this morning resumed its work and listened to speeches by brother members and guests.

The PRC delegation speech reiterated absolute support for the Palestinian people's just struggle to regain their national legitimate rights. It stressed that the PRC Government, party and peoples stand for Palestinian rights. The speech stressed that a just peace in the Middle East must be based on total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, including Jerusalem, the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland and the establishment of their independent state.

ATH-THAWRAH Speculates

JN151014 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Damascus, 15 Apr (SANA)--The 15th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] being held here is expected to issue several important decisions. The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH published here today reports that the groups of the Palestinian revolution movement have unanimously decided to reconsider relations with the Jordanian regime in light of this regime's stands and practices in support of the Camp David accords and the U.S. settlement line. One of these decisions is the formation of a new PLO Executive Committee by increasing the number of its members from 15 to 20 and having represented on it all the groups and sectors of the Palestinian people.

The paper adds that the Palestinian Liberation Front, the Popular Struggle Front and the PFLP are scheduled to join the new Executive Committee to bring about national unity among the groups of the Palestinian revolution. There is also a tendency in the PNC to form a unified council for military coordination among the revolution's groups, to consolidate financial aid into one fund and to form a broad front inside the occupied land.

The paper also points out that the 15th PNC session is scheduled to be divided into three political, financial and organizational subcommittees to finalize the draft resolutions and submit them to the conference for ratification.

Observers expect the 15th session to end on Sunday after having discussed its agenda, including the election of a new Executive Committee and the Central Council members.

European Initiative Viewed

JN152038 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1720 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Palestine broadcast; unattributed commentary]

[Text] The European initiative is one of the topics that the Palestine National Council [PNC] discussed in its current session. This discussion was held within the framework of the European-Arab dialogue and its results. There were several viewpoints put forth on the feasibility of the Arab-European dialogue and on the European initiative in the present circumstances. One of these viewpoints is that the attempt to infiltrate Europe should be continued, while the majority in the PNC believe that the circumstances are not yet suitable for the achievement of qualitative changes in the West European stand and that what West Europe has proposed so far does not go beyond the limits of a diplomatic maneuver under the U.S. canopy and serving the Camp David alliance. Thus, dealing with the European initiative in these circumstances would be a waste of effort and would constitute a threat to the cohesive Arab and Palestinian stand which rejects Camp David and is confronting imperialist schemes in the area.

It have been noticed that even the voices which have called for the continuation of dialogue with West Europe were not able to substantiate their argument that there would be a possibility of a real change in the European stand in the present circumstances. Neither the balance of power in the area nor West Europe's need for Arab oil constitute a factor which can bring pressure to bear on the European policies, while the increasing U.S. influence in the area does constitute a factor which makes one exclude the possibility that Europe can be independent from U.S. policies. This makes West Europe subservient to U.S. policy. This also becomes evident from West Europe's behavior on the attempts to make the security situation explode in Lebanon, because some West European countries have played a blatant role in serving the isolationist-Zionist-imperialist scheme and because some West European countries are trying to exploit the security explosion that was fabricated by the Zionized isolationists to put forth the idea of internationalization, thus restoring imperialist hegemony over fraternal Lebanon.

In view of all that is taking place, the Palestinians must take into consideration only one factor at this stage. This factor is the consolidation of Palestinian national unity and of the Arab forces of confrontation, which are the serious opposition to the reactionary policies allied to the United States in the area, and the foiling of the Zionist-imperialist-reactionary onslaught to enable the struggle march to achieve liberation.

PALESTINIAN LEFTISTS REPORTEDLY SEEK UNITY

GF151905 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Beirut--Sources close to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine have said that efforts are currently being made to unite the Palestinian leftist organizations in a single organization that will then be transformed into a political party. According to reliable sources, the Democratic Front and the Jordanian Communist Party are studying the possibility of transforming the front into an ideological party that will include a military wing. However, this step has been frozen following a disagreement over certain points.

RESPONSIBILITY TAKEN FOR BALLOON ATTACK ON ISRAEL

LD160842 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0821 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] Beirut, 16 Apr (KUNA)--A Palestinian organization--the Palestinian Liberation Front--has claimed responsibility for a raid carried out by a group of its fedayeen on a northern Israeli settlement early this morning by balloon. In a brief statement which KUNA received by telephone, the front said its men attacked Israeli targets in a settlement. A spokesman for the front said the operation was carried out according to existing plans, but he gave no other details. This is the second time within a year in which Palestinian fedayeen have tried to attack Israeli targets by balloon.

KLIBI SEEKS TO 'DEFUSE' IRAQI-SYRIAN SITUATION

LD160847 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Apr 81 p 1

['Abd al-Latif al-Furati report: "Klibi Tried in Damascus To Defuse Situation; 'Grave Situation' Between Iraq and Syria"]

[Text] Tunis--ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from well-informed sources here that Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi, who attended the opening of the Palestinian National Council [PNC] meetings in Damascus, has carried out a series of contacts with the Syrian authorities for two purposes: First, to discuss the situation in Lebanon and, second, to discuss the issue raised by an Iraqi delegation which came to Tunis last week and submitted to the secretary general a memorandum on Syria's participation in the Iraq-Iran war on Tehran's side.

Well-informed Arab diplomatic sources in the Tunisian capital said that the situation on the Syrian-Iraqi borders is grave in view of the fear of Baghdad's reaction following a secret memorandum submitted by Iraq which says that a Syrian plane which was supporting Iran was forced to land at an Iraqi airfield and was found to contain documents incriminating Damascus.

Apparently Baghdad did not submit a complaint to the Arab League or ask for a meeting by its council to discuss this issue while reserving its right to take whatever action it may deem fit, which has aroused fears that Baghdad might carry out a retaliatory action that could further exacerbate the situation between the two countries.

CHATTI DENIES IRANIAN ACCUSATION OF FAVORING IRAQ

NC160707 Paris AFP in English 0654 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] Algiers, 16 Apr (AFP)--Islamic Conference Secretary-General Habib Chatti has denied having made a statement which Iranian officials said showed (?that he supported) Iraq. In a communique delivered yesterday to the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here, Mr Chatti said he had learned "with the greatest surprise" of a statement in which the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Mr Chatti had referred to an Iranian bombing of Iraqi bases on April 4 as an act that would prolong the war between the two nations.

Mr Chatti is a member of the Islamic Conference mission seeking to negotiate a peaceful end to the Iraqi-Iranian war, and accusations of partiality could seriously damage the mission's work, observers noted.

He noted yesterday that the Iranian statement did not give the source of the quote he was alleged to have made, and he added: "I am convinced that the good faith of the Foreign Ministry has been abused, and that it took seriously a report that was either fabricated or spread by our adversaries, to sabotage the efforts of the peace committee." Mr Chatti said he had never commented publicly on any aspect of the actual combat in the seven-month-old war.

He called on "the wisdom of my Iranian brothers, and also to their sense of Islamic morals to oppose all these maneuvers of the enemies of Iran and Iraq who are sowing discord in our ranks and preventing us from ending this war, whose only beneficiaries are Israel and its accomplices."

GULF STATES TO MAKE RECONSTRUCTION LOANS TO IRAQ

LD151320 Kuwait KUNA in English 1136 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Apr (KUNA)--Press reports said Wednesday that some Arab Gulf states including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will extend over six billion dollars in loans to Iraq. AL-WATAN and AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM' said the National Assembly is currently debating a government bill for a two billion dollar interest free loan to Iraq and added that the assembly is likely to approve the loan.

In an unattributed story, AL-WATAN said Saudi Arabia will extend a four billion dollar loan to Iraq and that some other Gulf states which it did not name, will also render loans.

The two billion dollar loan which Iraq is seeking from Kuwait will be used for reconstruction of the utilities destroyed during the raging war between Iraq and Iran, AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM said. Iraq proposed to receive the loan in six installments of 500,000 dollars at the beginning of April and five other installments of 300,000 dollars each at the beginning of each month. Iraq will repay the loan over a period of ten years at the rate of 200,000 dollars every year as of 1984, the paper said.

SAUDI ARABIA

OFFICIAL REVIEWS SAUDI POSITIONS, CONCERNS

GF151720 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Apr 81 p 19

[Raflah Khiryati interview with Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani in Riyadh--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] The Gulf Cooperation Council has marked the beginning of the application of a reality that is based on coordination and consultation among the Gulf states. Knowing that the kingdom has become used to assuming pioneer roles in all fields, will it submit many bills at the Gulf summit to enhance coordination and joint action among the region's states?

[Answer] In fact, the Gulf Cooperation Council has explained the bases for joint action, just as each state has explained the manner of its cooperation in this field. The council's summit, which will be held in Abu Dhabi, God willing, will mark the culmination of this matter. Coordination among the Gulf states is not new. As you know it has been taking place in the fields of information, economy, trade, petroleum and others. Therefore, the Cooperation Council is a complementary step to the coordination that existed before. It is premature to talk about the forms in which the new form of cooperation will appear, but I am fully confident that the matter is serious, important and fundamental to all the region's states. They are approaching the project with sincerity and a desire to achieve extra cooperation and coordination that may enable us to talk to the world in one language. It may enable us to move in a coordinated manner to achieve our goals in the development in our Arab and Islamic worlds. It may also enable us to play our role at the international level according to our inspirations and hopes.

[Question] Dr Yamani, you have been visited by the U.S. secretary of state, and the French defense minister visited you recently as well. You will soon be visited by FRG Chancellor Schmidt and then by Mrs Thatcher. Do you, in the kingdom, deliberately inform those visitors of the Gulf's united stand on the issues discussed?

[Answer] Our stand on this issue has always been made clear and obvious. The visits by the U.S. secretary of state, Mrs Thatcher and the French defense minister stem from interest in joint cooperation, but they do not change or alter the stands that have been adopted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The kingdom does not adopt its stands in a day or a night and does not adopt its stands because a president or a foreign minister of a certain state has paid a visit. We consult them on various issues and benefit from their presence in our country in order to make our point of view known and at the same time listen to their point of view. However, in the end we always have our own stands that stem from the fundamentals to which this nation is linked. Praise be to God, since the time of King 'Abd al-'Aziz, no one has heard that the kingdom has ever adopted a single stand in secrecy or behind veils, because we have nothing to hide. We talk frankly and openly with anyone who has come to visit us--during their stay with us and after their departure--because we are committed to the stands we have adopted. However, these meetings are a good opportunity for us to have a civilized dialogue with these people in order to acquaint them with our real stands.

In all our different meetings, especially the meeting with the U.S. secretary of state, we have explained the Saudi stand--its known stand on all our political questions. We have reiterated that the essence of the conflict in the region is the Palestinian question, and that without resolving the Palestinian question and without a positive move for the sake of solving it we shall not be able to attain the just peace we are seeking. This peace is based on certain conditions, the most important of which are the return of the Palestinians to their homeland, their right to self-determination, the establishment of their independent state and the return of holy Jerusalem, the return of the usurped Arab territory and the end of this expansion that Israel is carrying out day after day.

The United States has to play an essential role in this by realizing that its interests in the region require the establishment of peace, and that will not be possible unless the Palestinian question is resolved.

We have also made our stand on Lebanon clear, and the royal memorandum on the Lebanese question was issued hours before the arrival of the U.S. secretary of state. Thus, I said before, we have adopted definite stands. More than once, we have told the Soviet Union that we recognize it as being the superpower that should have contributed to peace. We have explained clearly that we consider the military intervention in Afghanistan to be open, unjustified, unsupported and a great mark of disgrace for the Soviet Union.

Economic issues occupy a major part of our discussions too, and we have explained that we shall continue to bear our responsibilities toward the Third World and the entire world as well. We hope that the other side, that is the industrial states, will bear their responsibilities in preventing inflation and in rationing the consumption of oil. The citizens of these industrial states must realize that this valuable material should be preserved and that it is an important and strategic substance. At a time when the producing countries are bearing their responsibilities by producing and providing this substance, the industrial states must ration consumption, because this resource is bound to run out. It is our responsibility to preserve this resource for the sake of coming generations.

We have also explained to Haig that we are confident that the new U.S. administration is allowing us to be optimistic over the prospect of seeking fairness from them on the essential questions in the region. We told him we are confident that they will reconsider the obsolete Camp David Agreement, which has become useless and has even been deserted by some of the principal sides. We firmly believe that if the intentions are sincere and the United States wants to participate in finding peace, we may be able to approach a just peace that primarily satisfies the Palestinian people. They were unjustly forced to leave their homeland and have been living in camps for many years. They have even been forced to flee the tents themselves under pressure. Indeed, it is a vicious, inhuman crime.

This dialogue is very useful in answering our questions and is useful for our contacts with the world. I believe that, God willing, the kingdom will continue to adopt such stands that are characterized by its responsible feeling, the inspiration of its tolerant faith and its responsibilities toward the Arab and Islamic nations as well as toward the entire world.

[Question] Do you expect certain events to take place in the region if the Iraqi-Iranian war continues, or do you expect the war to end?

[Answer] I believe the Iraqi-Iranian war is bound to end. There is no doubt at all, and it is just a matter of time. We have become more optimistic over the mediation efforts of the good offices committee. What truly hurts us is that more Muslim blood is being shed. We hope God will guide both conflicting sides to stop the bleeding that is deep in the heart of the Islamic nation and that both parties will resort to a quiet and constructive dialogue in order to stop the bloodshed. There is no doubt that the losses being suffered by the two sides are a success for the enemy of the Arab and Islamic nations. Saudi Arabia has spared no effort and will not, God willing, in order to achieve what is best for the Islamic nation. We are moving with our utmost power to stop this bloody conflict and are working to achieve peace on the basis of justice. I feel today, more than ever before, that the war is about to end. We can not become optimistic that both sides will look forward to an honorable future in which they will realize the dimensions of responsibility and the foreseen dangers of the war. It has crushed everything and has led to destruction and terror. It has also rendered the children of the Muslims homeless. All of us hope today that the war will end and that it will be replaced by sincere Islamic-based brotherhood between the two fraternal nations.

[Question] Will you call on the Islamic and friendly states to sever their relations with Afghanistan just as the kingdom has done?

[Answer] We have made our stand on Afghanistan clear, and we are fully confident that a firm stand must be taken on this subject. The policy of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, as you know, is that of nonintervention in the internal affairs of any state. However, we are confident that our step is the minimum punishment that can be adopted in order for everyone to understand that these measures [the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union] are inhuman and that the Soviet Union has threatened and invaded an entire state. We had to adopt a definite stand on this affliction to which Afghanistan is being subjected. We are confident that many states will follow Saudi Arabia in adopting a similar action as soon as they realize the dimensions of this imminent threat to all of us and the importance of standing in one rank at the side of the Afghan people.

ANGLO-GERMAN MISSILE TO BE FINANCED CONDITIONALLY

NC160910 Paris AFP in English 0835 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Apr (AFP)--The Saudi Arabian Government is prepared to finance enhancement of an Anglo-West German missile, provided it is made in Saudi Arabia, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS said today. The subject will be discussed when British Premier Margaret Thatcher visits Saudi Arabia on April 21, it said. Mrs Thatcher will also discuss participation by Britain and other European countries in technology transfer to the Saudi military equipment industry.

The British premier will propose that more Anglo-Saudi joint trading companies be set up, the present total being around 1,000. The future of 25,000 Britons working in Saudi Arabia will also be examined, the newspaper said. AL-QABAS added however that Saudi Arabia was against Britons and other foreigners working in its defence industry. On the other hand it favoured the exchange of experts.

Saudi Arabia gets seven percent of its imports from Britain.

UAE

AL-KHALIJ CALLS U.S. SHOW OF STRENGTH FUTILE

GF150847 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 15 Apr 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The United States Is Flexing Its Muscles"]

[Text] The United States has again resorted to flexing its muscles, thinking that the world can contain none but its force alone. The United States thinks that it can frighten nations, forgetting that more than one defeat was dealt to its military force--the last of which was the great failure at Lut [Tabas] Desert in Iran.

President Reagan believes that he can convince the world that his United States is strong and that he is still capable of fulfilling his campaign promises, namely, to restore the confidence of U.S. friends in the United States and to restore the confidence of "small" friends of the United States in themselves.

Reagan has ordered the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean--which orginally consisted of 32 naval vessels--and has speedily dispatched four additional vessels--which form a huge combat force--to the Mediterranean. This new U.S. move resembles a "Reaganist" demonstration, which has more than one dimension and more than one goal.

Muscle flexing is one of these goals. It is not merely a theatrical show or a target in itself; rather, it is a political and military move principally directed against the Arab nation, where a national struggle is flaring up in order to liberate the occupied territories and where new hopes for national development are growing. The United States finds no embarassment in confronting this by resorting to the old colonial method based on threats, dispatching warships and deploying cannons.

Through this show of power, Reagan intends to declare U.S. support for "the friends"--of whom the Egyptian regime, Israel and the Phalangists in Lebanon constitute one of the U.S. lines encircling the Arab nation. The encircling lines extend from the coast of the Mediterranean right into the heart of the Arab nation, where U.S. facilitations or friends exist and where the United States has military bases on the African coast, which is near the Arabian Gulf region. Thus, the force of the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean unites with the force of the 7th Fleet in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. This is aimed at tightening the encirclement, threatening and guaranteeing a temporary, rapid intervention or a long-term invasion.

The show of power performed by President Reagan is not isolated from the events taking place in the Arab region; on the contrary, the show is carefully timed with the culmination of the Lebanese crisis, the defeat of the Phalangists and Washington's call for the internationalization of Lebanon. Moreover, this show is not isolated from the escalation of opposition inside Egypt to the Camp David agreements and the bilateral settlement with Israel. The show is also timed with the birth of new plans in the region aimed at imposing an Arab-Israeli coexistence through new forms of the Camp David agreement.

The reinforcement of the 6th Fleet with this additional combat force comes after U.S. Secretary of State Haig's visit to the region--which was aimed at expanding the circle of U.S. influence in the Arab region and at perceiving the likelihood of achieving a state of coexistence with Israel through old friends and by frightening us with far-reaching specters as well as the use of facilities and through arms deals.

Facing all these new developments, and confronting the attempts to completely encircle the Arab nation from the coast of the Mediterranean down to the Arabian Gulf, we realize the importance of the efforts made by the Gulf Cooperation Council's foreign ministers to save the Arabian Gulf from the grip of foreign obligations. The events renew the call for redistributing Arab petroleum resources, especially the petroleum of the Arabian Gulf, so that we can become economically self-sufficient and thus disallow foreign penetration by the weapon of colonial economic aid, which is usually accompanied by military bases and facilities. Our success in doing this guarantees the destruction of at least one of the lines of encirclement around our Arab nation and will open an unmined path for our patriotic and national questions.

As far as the United States is concerned, we do not think that it does not know that muscle flexing no longer terrifies the people of even the smallest countries of the world and that the age of military and political procurement has ended with the birth of patriotic liberation fronts. Lessons are plentiful, and world seas are no longer theaters for U.S. fleets' contentiousness, nor are the skies--despite what has been said about Columbia. The United States knows well from its own experience that when small nations rise to defend their independence and sovereignty, they fight with unbeatable faith and patriotism.

EDITORIALS PRAISE OMANI-YEMENI MEDIATION EFFORT

JN141048 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Apr 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Apr (ENA)--The newspapers AL-KHALIJ and AL-BAYAN hail efforts by the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council to clear the atmosphere between Muscat and Aden as a first basic step for this council, whose main task is to entrench stability and security in the region.

AL-BAYAN, published in Dubayy, says: The good offices made by the UAE and Kuwait on this matter in implementation of the resolutions which the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council adopted during their recent meeting in Muscat is a necessary step to stabilize the situation in the region and eliminate the current tension in Omani-Yemeni relations, which could create a serious gap and give the lurking ambitious elements in the world the opportunity to infiltrate the region.

The paper asserts the need to establish normal neighborly relations between Oman and the PDRY on the basis of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, an essential principle for entrenching stability and security on borders.

Concluding its editorial, the paper expresses hope that the task of clearing the atmosphere between Aden and Oman will take place with the same spirit of good will and tolerance that led to the border agreement between UAE and Oman, in order to block the way to any ambition entertained by the greedy and to prevent them from entering the Gulf region from the southern flank, which should be firmly and strongly closed.

PORTUGESE PREMIER, DELEGATION MEET OFFICIALS

Presidential Reception

GF151013 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Excerpts] President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received at Al-Mushrif Palace today Portugese Prime Minister Francisco Pinto Balsemao, who is currently visiting the country.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY has learned that they discussed cooperation between the two friendly countries, particularly in the economic, trade and cultural spheres. They reviewed current international issues and especially the Palestinian question. The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY learned that the views of the two sides were identical on all the issues discussed during the meeting.

The two sides also discussed the proposed tripartite cooperation among the Arab world, Europe and Africa, whereby Europe would contribute its technological expertise and the Arab countries would contribute capital and invest it in development projects and aid to African countries.

The Portuguese prime minister presented the president with a six-volume encyclopedia on the history of Portuguese civilization and its relationship with the Arab world.

Ministerial Meeting

JN151954 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1920 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Apr (ENA)--Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, today met with Alexandre Vaz Pinto, Portuguese minister of commerce and tourism, who is accompanying the Portuguese premier during a 3-day visit to the UAE.

Dr al-'Utaybah said that he discussed with Alexandre Vaz Pinto the possibility of increasing UAE oil exports to Portugual. He said: We will study this request in the future within the framework of our concern to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. He added that Portuguese Prime Minister Francisco Pinto Balsemao had requested that the UAE increase its oil exports, not totaling about 20,000 barrels a day.

Portugal's oil imports, totaling 170,000 barrels a day, have been affected by the Iraqi-Iranian war which has entered it seventh month.

Vaz Pinto explained to Dr al-'Utaybah Portugal's problems relating to energy. He said that his country is trying to secure stable shipments of oil for the future.

Dr al-'Utaybah said that the Portuguese side has proposed the establishment of joint oil projects, the details of which will be discussed in the future by experts from both countries.

PDRY

CHAIRMAN 'ALI NASIR RECEIVES CPSU DELEGATION

LD111538 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Apr 81 CA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and of the Council of Ministers, at noon today received a CPSU delegation led by the comrade deputy secretary of foreign relations at the Secretariat of the CPSU Central Committee.

A number of issues concerning the development of relations between the two friendly parties, the YSP and CPSU, were discussed during the meeting. Progress in the implementation of the 1981 cooperation protocol signed between the two parties was also reviewed.

Emphasis was laid on the importance of a continued exchange of experiences and consultations between the two countries. A number of issues of common interest were also discussed during the meeting. The meeting was attended by the comrade ambassador of the USSR in Aden.

FOREIGN FORCES' PRESENCE IN OMAN DENOUNCED

LD152250 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The Muscat regime is trying to convince our masses that the presence of American and Egyptian forces in our country is in the interests of the Omani people. It is manufacturing excuses, as is its habit, using the [word indistinct] Red menace or its old slogan--the fear of communism.

Under these spurious slogans Oman has been put at the disposal of these forces to do what they like with it under the catch phrase "dependence on friends." The Qabus regime has also said, as the American administration also alleges, that the security of the Gulf must be protected. (?And on this) Oman will remain under the influence of the American forces.

Here we pose a question: Who threatens the security of Oman and the Gulf and from whom and in whose interest are they protecting them? Is it in the interest of Omanis or is it in the interest of the Americans and foreigners? The changes, developments and transformations that are going on in our country at all levels, namely operations and [word indistinct] as represented by the presence of the foreign American forces, are clear proof that this regime does not enjoy the [word indistinct] of the Omani people. This is in the interest of neither the masses of our people nor of our country, Oman.

The mass popular resentment to the presence of American forces in our country has started growing against the regime and has begun to develop into a national struggle against the foreign presence and the Qabus regime and its clique. On this basis the regime has started drawing up plans and plots to contain these masses and buy them off with bribes so that they agree to what is going in our country. But our masses in all parts of Oman, inside the country and abroad, are hardly pleased with the policy of the Qabus regime and the presence of bases and foreign forces in our country.

Hence, the Qabus authorities have begun to intensify the activities of the suppressive organs by hounding the honorable citizens and those who are not pleased with these forces. For example, the governor of Dhufar has not [words indistinct] what our people are doing, except to give the citizens that he meets 10 to 20 riyals to keep silent about the general situation and the holding of military maneuvers in the area by Qabus and the Americans and Egyptians under the slogan--search for communists. This design [word indistinct] every honorable ctiizen who is jealous of his homeland.

Our struggling masses: These games, plans, plots and bribes which the stooge regime uses against our country and our citizens, our masses are certainly now unaware of what is going on around them. They are also not pleased with the shameful operations which the Qabus regime and its clique carry out every day in front of us, [word indistinct].

It is worth mentioning that the Qabus regime now uses the same suppressive police methods and bribes which the stooge regime of As-Sadat used on behalf of the Americans and Israel against the Egyptian people. These are now applied in our country, Oman, where the majority of the intelligence elements consist of Egyptians, Savakists and English intelligence. But let the Qabus regime know our people are aware of these games and that the hostile policy towards our people is now exposed. Our masses will not submit to these methods and allow the stooges to implement these unjust designs against our people. We will struggle against this shameful and rotten operation which no people in the world accept. We are positive that our people and our masses will dig the grave of this traitorous regime and turn Oman into a nationalist democratic country free from foreign bases and forces so that its citizens may be free and respectable and the master of their homeland.

YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON GULF ISSUES

LD141053 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Apr 81 pp 1-2

[Text] Jidda, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau--ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT met with YAR Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutf ath-Thawr during his presence in Jidda as head of the YAR side to the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council meetings. The minister expressed his complete satisfaction with the results of the meetings, saying that the council has achieved its targets. He said: "We believe that the council has made wide strides with regard to the relations between our two countries, particularly in the development field. We are aware that the numerous development projects which have now been implemented are among the fruits of this council." He emphasized that there are no difficulties worth mentioning because the aims and objects of the two countries are identical and "we have a feeling that there is agreement on all matters put before the council."

The minister then praised Saudi Arabia's and the Gulf states' support for his country and said: Yemen extends its hand to all its fraternal countries. Throughout our country's modern history we have never felt embarrassed to ask for help from our fraternal states, particularly the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. We insist on establishing a nucleus of strong cooperation with the fraternal states in the Gulf.

Ath-Thawr denied that the YAR has asked to join the Gulf Cooperation Council. He said: We are not against any Arab grouping or meeting that will mobilize forces, energies and capabilities in support of our Arab issues and frustrate foreign ambitions to fragment our nation inside and outside the Arabian Peninsula. We feel that any action in support of our issues is beneficial to the Arabs in general. We expect our fraternal states to adopt a stand on the grounds that what is plotted against the Gulf is also plotted against the Arabian Peninsula as a whole. We feel that a danger to any Arab area is a danger that threatens the whole of the Arabian Peninsula. In such matters there is no difference between one state and another.

Regarding Aden's call for an Arab-African summit conference for neutralizing the Gulf and the Red Sea, Ath-Thawr said that the issue is not one of a call but one of a purpose and aim. We are calling for the Red Sea area and the Gulf to be made an area of security and stability.

There must some kind of consultation and understanding among the officials of the area on the means that will ensure that the area is an area of security and peace where we can live in tranquility unaffected by the international threats and dangers which are now being concentrated on and directed at our area. We are anxious and feel that communications channels must be found so that we can agree on basic matters affecting this area in order to achieve our aim of keeping the area out of conflicts. Irrespective of whether a call is made by any given side, we do not disagree that this area is made by any given side, we do not disagree that this area must live in tranquility and stability unaffected by all the foreign influences that are not in the interest of the area.

The minister denied what has been reiterated and the campaigns of doubt launched about the internal situation in Yemen. He said: Our country has experienced hardships which no country in the Arabian Peninsula has ever experienced. Yemen has suffered a great deal. I will mention here the American press reports of about 2 years ago to the effect that the situation in Yemen would not last more than 6 months. All the information media and the news agencies then continued their campaign of casting doubt on the internal situation. We are seeking to establish a cohesive atmosphere and a free democratic climate and a period of transition from an ambiguous situation into a clear situation. This is being criticized because there is a range of views--some supporting, some opposing and some lying in wait. This is the nature of things. However, we feel that we are on the right course for the establishment of a legislative authority freely and directly elected by the people so that this authority can assume the basic role of building Yemen and choosing the rulers in a free democratic manner and setting objectives on which all Yemenis agree. The current dialogue is aimed at developing a charter based on our circumstances and the gains of our revolution and the Islamic canonical law.

In regard to what is being said about the movement to the left, we are open to all the states in the world without exception and we seek the friendship of all states. Concerning the question of our being with the East or with the West, Yemen's policy is clear and our relations with the socialist states are of long standing.

Regarding the arrest of 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, Ath-Thawr said: We do not conceal anything. As you already know, Al-Asnaj was arrested according to the constitution and through the legislative authority, whose decision cannot be rescinded. As far as what has been said about his execution goes, I can emphasize that Al-Asnaj is alive and is now being investigated, before being tried in accordance with constitutional procedures. The reports of his execution are untrue. Our procedures are different from other people's procedures and no one wishes things to be done in a manner contrary to constitutional procedures. The matter will take its constitutional course in a just, clear and open manner without any cover-up or secrecy. I would like to emphasize once again that Brother al-Asnaj is alive and that his case is in safe hands until justice takes its course.

He affirmed that Al-Asnaj will be tried in accordance with the YAR Constitution by a higher security court. To date the security authorities have indicted him on the basis of documents found in his possession that are harmful to the relations between us and some fraternal countries. Despite this, a person remains innocent until he is proven guilty. Measures are still being taken and investigations are continuing, and the matter will be decided by the court.

Asked if the Al-Asnaj case represents an espionage cell in which some persons like Yemen's permanent UN delegate are participating, Ath-Thawr said: No. This is completely untrue. These are mere rumors. One or two persons are connected with the Al-Asnaj case but not in this exaggerated manner. It is an individual case.

'ALI DISCUSSES PEACEKEEPING FORCE WITH ATHERTON

NC151710 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has received Alfred Atherton, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo. Following their 1-hour meeting, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that they discussed the question of UN forces participating in the Sinai peacekeeping force after Israel's final withdrawal in April 1982. He added that during the meeting they analyzed the results of the contacts made by Egypt and the United States with the Security Council member states and the position of these states on this matter.

'Ali said that he has summoned Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, Dr 'Smat 'Abd al-Majid, who is now in Algeria with the nonaligned group, for further consultations regarding the position of the Security Council member states on the question of participation in a UN peacekeeping force. He said that Dr 'Abd al-Majid is expected in Cairo on Sunday or Monday. He added: The U.S. ambassador gave us an idea of the results of U.S. Secretary of State Haig's Middle East tour.

'ALI HOSTS DINNER FOR SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER

NC152205 Cairo MENA in English 1925 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)--The deputy premier and foreign minister, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, gave a dinner At-Tahyir Club here tonight in honour of Mr Ola Ullsten, the Swedish foreign minister and the delegation accompanying him on his current visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. 'Ali, in a toast speech, welcomed the Swedish guest and underlined the relations between Egypt and Sweden, which he described as both strong and dynamic. He expressed hopes for continued cooperation to develop these relations. The Egyptian deputy premier voiced admiration for Sweden as a technologically and economically advanced country, attributing this to its desire to live in peace during the past one and a half century. This, he added, had afforded Sweden an opportunity to solve its problems, to achieve development and to reach a high living standard for its people.

The deputy premier and foreign minister said Egypt also sought a just and comprehensive peace in the area in order to create a propitious atmosphere for progress and development in all spheres for all the area peoples. Kamal Hasan 'Ali underscored Sweden's role in this sphere.

In a reply speech, the Swedish guest hailed Egypt's cultural role in the past and its current efforts to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East. The minister expressed thanks for the welcome extended to him and his delegation and underlined the historical links between Egypt and Sweden on the bilateral level.

EGYPTIAN-PALESTINIAN MEETING ON LEBANON REPORTED

LD151543 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Apr 81 p 1

[By Sana' as-Sa'id]

[Text] Cairo--A high-level source has said that a meeting took place 2 days ago between a PLO representative and Egyptian officials to discuss developments in Lebanon. The Egyptian source said that Egypt promised after the meeting to hold contacts with Israel in the next few days in order to stop acts of violence between the two sides.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry set up a permanent committee under the chairmanship of Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali to follow Lebanese events and to pursue contacts with the various countries concerned in order to preserve peace in Lebanon. Dr Ghali said that the permanent committee set up by the Foreign Ministry will consider all possibilities to contain the present crisis within the framework of the UN machinery.

It is understood that the Egyptian announcement on restricting efforts to contain the crisis within the United Nations came after France withdrew its proposal to form a new international peace force in Lebanon when several Arab countries rejected the proposal. On the other hand, it was learned yesterday that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is studying the possibility of going back to implementing the decision on the establishment of an Arab deterrent force, adopted by the six nations meeting in Riyadh in 1976, to solve the Lebanese crisis.

EDITOR REVIEWS, ATTACKS PALESTINIAN PLOT IN EGYPT

LD140735 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 11 Apr 81 p 8

[Article by chief editor Ibrahim Sa'dah: "The Terrorist 'Brothers'"]

[Excerpts] Many topics--international, Arab and local--could be discussed this week but the topic on which we should dwell at length this week is the question of the sabotage conspiracy exposed last week. It is true that the conspiracy failed to achieve its objectives and that the Egyptian security departments have been able to apprehend the saboteurs and the agents, but this alone is not enough to forget the conspiracy and to behave as if it had not happened.

What is more important than the conspiracy is the actual conspiring. The saboteurs who were arrested have confessed details of the plan and revealed the party that enlisted them, the source of finance that paid them and the brains behind planning. The accusing fingers point unanimously at the Palestinian brothers, particularly those labeled "extremists," "hardliners," or "insurgents." The investigation being carried out by the Prosecutor's Office shows that the so-called PFLP was the one that planned, financed and tried to carry out the sabotage plan in Egypt. The Egyptian people will certainly be stunned when details of the conspiracy are made public. Egyptian public opinion will be shocked when it learns of the Palestinian brothers' conspiracy and knows that their objective was destruction, sabotage, murder, assassination and kidnapping.

According to the details of the conspiracy, the Palestinian terrorist group fixed as targets for their agents places of public gatherings in Egyptian towns. They were to be blown up so as to kill whoever happened to be there. Obviously, the potential victims of such actions are not enemies of the PLO or against the Palestine problem and none of them has volunteered to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat, George Habash or Nayif Hawatimah. Does Egypt deserve such a "reward" from some of the Palestinians? The Egyptian people did not and will not turn their back to the Palestinian problem. They did not and will not forsake Palestinian rights, for the problem is not theirs alone but all the Arab peoples'. Egypt has confirmed this time and time again: Even when the Palestinian popular and aristocratic fronts [as published] have been insulting Egypt and its leadership, attacking its stands and poking fun at the daily sufferings of the Egyptian citizen. The Egyptian official and popular stand has never changed.

Egypt differentiates between one Palestinian and another. Egypt stands on the side of the Palestinian who has not forgotten his country or those who have stood with him, helped him, supported him and defended him. Such Palestinians are numerous both inside and outside Palestine. They are quite different from the others who bear the same identity but are so different from them and have different principles and objectives. The struggling Palestinian is the one who genuinely seeks to recover his rights from those who have usurped them from him and not from those who have helped him; he is the one who sacrifices himself and his money in order to liberate his land and not the one who sacrifices the lives and money of others. He is the one who carries his arms and goes directly to his land, not those who carry bombs and claim that the way to reach the usurped land is via Amman, Riyadh, Kuwait or Cairo.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 307

JN151719 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)--During their military activities yesterday evening and today, our armed forces inflicted heavy losses on the racist Persian enemy. A communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command said that 223 of the enemy were killed and 1 tank, 1 armored personnel carrier, 6 field guns of various calibers, 6 vehicles, 2 rocket launchers, 1 excavator, 6 observation posts and 1 ammunition dump were destroyed. The communique added that today our planes raided a column of enemy vehicles in the Dezful region, scoring direct hits before returning safely to base. It said that our losses were 16 martyrs in all sectors, in addition to the damage of 6 tanks, 6 vehicles, 3 field guns and 1 mortar, in addition to 1 helicopter which went down over our positions in the Shush region. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 307 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our capable armed forces strongly pounded the racist Persian forces in the operations sectors yesterday evening and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Six were killed and one vehicle and one observation post were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
B. Our forces pounded enemy concentrations in the Gilan-e Gharb region and forced the enemy to flee after having sustained 31 killed and 1 vehicle and 2 observation posts destroyed.
C. An enemy concentration was sighted in the Meymak region opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd. Our forces hit it and forced it to retreat, killing 18 and destroying 1 tank and 2 field guns.
D. One observation post and one ammunition dump were destroyed in the Mehran region.
E. Our advanced units clashed with an enemy force consisting of infantry supported by artillery and antitank weapons in the Shush region. Our units hit it violently with all weapons and forced it to retreat, leaving behind 68 dead. One vehicle was also destroyed and two intact TOW rocket launchers left behind in the battlefield were captured.
F. Our units hit violently with all weapons enemy concentrations near their positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region and forced the enemy to retreat, having sustained 79 killed and 1 armored personnel carrier, 2 field guns, 1 vehicle carrying personnel and 1 ammunition dump destroyed.
G. Our units pounded enemy troops and positions in the Abadan region, killing 21 and destroying 2 field guns, 2 vehicles, 1 excavator and 2 observation posts.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 223 dead, 1 tank, 1 armored personnel carrier, 6 field guns of various calibers, 6 vehicles, 2 rocket launchers, 1 excavator, 6 observation posts and 1 ammunition dump destroyed or captured.

II. Today our planes attacked a column of enemy vehicles in the Dezful region, scoring direct hits before returning safely to base.

III. It has been confirmed to us that enemy losses in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin as a result of our units' activities on 13 April this year were 38 Khomeyni guards killed and 1 vehicle and 1 field gun destroyed.

IV. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 16 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Six tanks, six vehicles, three field guns and one mortar were damaged. In addition one helicopter went down over our positions in the Shush region.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 April 1981

CABINET MEETS 15 APR; AL-WAZZAN MAKES STATEMENT

NC151650 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Meetings and contacts on political and security affairs continued to be held today. These activities included the Cabinet meeting over which President Ilyas Sarkis presided at 1145. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the ministers attended this meeting, at which the security and political situations were reviewed from all their perspectives.

At the conclusion of the meeting at 1405, the secretary general of the Prime Minister's Office, Dr ('Umar al-Missayki), released the following official statement: The Cabinet meeting was devoted to a discussion of the general situation prevailing in the country; to a review of the contacts and consultations that have been held since the most recent Cabinet meeting and that were aimed at stabilizing the cease-fire in Zahlah and in the various other areas of Lebanon; and to the means aimed at ensuring that the situation is comprehensively dealt with.

After the Cabinet heard all viewpoints, it emphasized the intensive attention it is devoting to the importance underlying the need for Cabinet members to confront and tackle the present situation with a unified stand.

The Cabinet has outlined the following points:

1. Bolstering the cease-fire and stabilizing it by all ways and means.
2. Continuing to tackle the crisis at the various echelons in a way that preserves the country's unity, sovereignty and independence and that ensures security for the citizens.
3. Seeking to intensify contacts with the quarters concerned, particularly with sisterly Syria, to help resolve the present crisis and speed up the procession of national reconciliation in light of previously endorsed, but hampered, principles.
4. Emphasizing the need for consolidating the legitimate authority to achieve national objectives.
5. Asking the Ministerial Committee on Reconciliation to continue its work and efforts to attain a procedural visualization of the means to be used in implementing the principles of national reconciliation.

At the outset of the meeting the Cabinet condemned the shelling to which the Republican Palace and the Chamber of Deputies building were exposed yesterday,--a shelling regarded as a stab in the back of legitimacy and as an act harmful to national dignity.

At the end of the session, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan made a statement, saying: The Cabinet session was not dedicated only to the security situation. It was devoted to reviewing the general situation prevailing in the country and to informing the ministers of all contacts and discussions that have been held at all levels, both at home and abroad. All the means useful to enabling us to extricate ourselves from the present state of affairs have been discussed. It is the Cabinet's opinion that it is imperative that we seek, through all possible means, to completely stabilize the cease-fire. Furthermore, it is imperative that we continue to tackle the Lebanese crisis and to intensify contacts with sisterly Syria to help resolve the crisis and speed up the procession of reconciliation.

The prime minister added: It is incumbent upon me to emphasize the need for rallying around legitimacy in its capacity as the basis of power, be it because it is mandatory to promote the reconciliation process, or because legitimacy is the basic motive force in this domain.

About the condition of the government, he said: It is now stronger than in the past. I feel that the ministers are rallying around the government. I also feel that the ministers are seeking to ensure a unified government.

AL-WAZZAN REPORTEDLY TO RESIGN AFTER CEASE-FIRE

GF151932 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Beirut--Sources close to Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan have said he will submit his resignation after a cease-fire has been confirmed and following the achievement of some of the much sought peace on the fighting fronts of Al-Biqa's region, Beirut and its outskirts. The sources have quoted al-Wazzan as saying that major splits have taken place within the Cabinet during the recent clashes in Lebanon and that the Cabinet will not be able to survive very long.

Al-Wazzan said he has informed President Ilyas Sarkis of his intention to resign in the hope that preparations will be made to form a new Cabinet that is more homogenous and more capable of adopting practical steps toward achieving a national accord. Al-Wazzan believes that if the recent incidents can be contained it will be possible to begin searching for a Cabinet that can achieve an accord.

BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT ISSUES

NC141517 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1235 GMT 14 Apr 81

[Interview with Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the Phalangist Party's militia, at the Voice of Lebanon studio on 14 April--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Shaykh Bashir, we are not going to act as journalists but as simple citizens. We would like to ask you where, in your opinion, does the Lebanese issue stand at present?

[Answer] First of all, I want to explain why we have been so late in addressing our citizens and public opinion here--fierce battles were going on. We were not interested at all nor did we have the time to talk about what is going on because we believed and were convinced that what was more important was to be able to maintain the land and our positions. Before making any statement, taking any position, and talking about any initiative or foreign move, it was important to us to maintain the positions; this was the most important thing. Today, after Zahlah has stood fast, after Zahlah has triumphed, after Zahlah has taken a courageous, dignified and heroic stand and after Zahlah has been able to overcome and destroy all the aggressions against it, we can--after this victory--begin addressing ourselves to our citizens and to local and international public opinion; we can now address the public opinion in the light of this victory.

You have asked where does Lebanon stand today after all the developments which have taken place. Once again we say that after what happened on 2 April we will not accept that Lebanon should be the same as it was before 2 April. During these 10 days many positions have developed and many things have become clear; many issues are being raised from the beginning. The basic thing that has emerged after 12 days of fierce fighting is that we will no longer agree to return to a situation in which there will be a massacre every month or two, and the result of this massacre will be a cease-fire and the renormalization of the situation on the ground for another month or two. Then, for a ridiculous reason or for no reason at all, as has happened recently, Beirut will again be savegely shelled and Zahlah will again face the same thing. And, once again, we will return to negotiations and a cease-fire with no solution achieved.

As far as we are concerned, if we reach an agreement this agreement must be complete. We are not anxious to have just any agreement and we are not begging for a cease-fire--although the battle in Zahlah was imposed on us. We are not begging the Western states or any other state to assist us in reaching a cease-fire. Today we are not just interested in a cease-fire in Zahlah; we are interested in saving all of Lebanon, and this is what we are going to start working on.

Our military security is very important, and hence we agree to cease-fire moves. But military security alone is not sufficient for us. We also want our political security. This is what we are working for today, in the light of the victories and heroisms achieved in Zahlah and in the light of the steadfastness of Zahlah, which is still a Lebanese fortress--a fortress of resistance and a fortress of free Lebanon--in the midst of Al-Biqa'. From Zahlah one day we can again move to where we want in order to maintain Lebanon's unity.

[Question] Shaykh Bashir, you have just spoken about a solution. Do you have a solution, or do you have any views on a solution? What is needed for a final solution?

[Answer] We have been living from 1943 until today in an atmosphere and within a certain framework that has resulted in the killing of 100,000 Christians and Muslims, the occupation of 2/3 of Lebanon, and the existence of foreign forces struggling over its territory, while the Lebanese remained as aliens in their own country.

Israel is attacking us because we are a Palestinian base; the Palestinians attack us because, in their view, we are an Israeli base; Syria attacks us because we are an imperialist base; the West has abandoned us because it considers that we have fallen into the lap of communism. The whole world is struggling over our backs and we are puzzled today as to who is the real friend and who is the real enemy.

What we want, especially now after the Zahlah battle and the military capability we proved after the popular, military, political and material steadfastness which we manifested in Zahlah, is to project ourselves as Lebanese--irrespective of any other consideration. This country belongs to us; our right is perpetrated on this land; this is what we want.

You may ask me how is this going to be done. I do not know. However, for the first time in 6 years of war--and we are beginning the 7th year--we no longer care for a cease-fire. For the first time we are no longer seeking a solution to come from anyone; for the first time we have started to seriously raise our issue and problem and try to find a solution, because in our view 7 years have brought enough suffering. What we want today is to be genuine Lebanese; that this country be ours; that we be the masters and that we have a political system capable of performing as a Lebanese political system in every sense of the word.

At the very least we want to be able to again find our identity. Our identity is not the Palestinian identity; our identity is not the Syrian identity; our identity is not any foreign identity; our identity is the Lebanese identity and the world must deal with us as Lebanese and masters over our land. This is what we want to start accomplishing. After all these heroisms the time has come for us to begin working toward solutions.

[Question] Is there any specific formula?

[Answer] Today we shall not speak about any formula. We do not want federalism; we do not want to speak about federalism. We do not want decentralization or centralization; we do not want a strong central government, a strong central army or a decentralized army. We want to be free. When we become free we can sit together with the Muslims around the table and I do not think that an agreement will then take longer than 24 hours. The feeling, thoughts, and hearts of the leaders of the western sector of Beirut are with us; public opinion in the western sector is more and more with us. However, because of statements which are being dictated to these leaders by organizations and quarters known to us all, we have not been able to achieve any accord.

The West is offering us assistance provided we achieve a reconciliation. However, the moment we are in agreement with each other or the moment we are able to have an understanding with each other we will not be in need of anyone.

If we are today requesting assistance from abroad it is in order to liberate ourselves from the aliens who are disrupting every effort toward an agreement among us. This is the assistance we are asking; it is not a shame to ask for such help. Europe could not have been liberated without the help of the Americans who came to Europe and liberated it by force. Very few countries were able to liberate themselves by their own capabilities. All those who were liberated were liberated because someone assisted them. They certainly must be there; we must wait and be patient. In my opinion, it is imperative that we must maintain our steadfastness and our positions.

We are strengthening all our military, social, political and economic capabilities, and the day will inevitably come when this crisis will be resolved. The important thing is that when this day comes we must be there and be the masters of our decision and ourselves.

[Question] Shaykh Bashir, there are international initiatives and talk about international initiatives. Is this something new regarding the Lebanese issue? What is your position regarding the international sympathy for Lebanon?

[Answer] In 1978 De Guiringuad a [former French foreign minister] and Mondale, who was the U.S. vice president, permitted themselves to say, while we were enduring in Al-Ashrafiyah the same suffering which Zahlah is experiencing today, that we are anarchist elements provoking the Syrian Army. This statement permitted the Syrian Army to attack us and justified many savage and barbaric actions against us at the time.

Today, no one at all made such statements against us. On the contrary, it was the Syrian who was challenging us; it was the Syrian who was attacking us. Just as we have won the military battle in Zahlah we won the political battle in the West. This is because for the first time the issue of Lebanese resistance and Lebanese steadfastness rallied the world. For us this was the greatest military victory we could achieve because our issue is being raised abroad more and more. And this international political rallying around our issue will inevitably bear fruit one day.

I say one day because so far these initiatives or activity has not been enough to save us from our plight. If the West really wants to assist it must dirty its hands a little with us, because mere words are not enough. Whoever wants to assist us must move politically; but a clear and frank position--and perhaps a practical position--must be taken to save Lebanon from its plight. We are with such activity and initiatives. But after 6 years we have a right to ask the international public opinion and community for greater assistance to Lebanon.

[Question] Shaykh Bashir, the simple citizen would like to know which you place first--the political or the military solution?

[Answer] We must not go back to the story of which came first: the chicken or the egg. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil has been advocating security before accord for the past 6 years and they answer him: No, accord before security. Try to resolve this.

What we want today is to be masters over our land, to know exactly what we want, we want to live as free people.

Perhaps today we are approaching a solution. The Zahlah operation has brought us much closer to a solution because for the first time the whole world has begun to work for Lebanon from our standpoint as Lebanese. We are drawing closer to a solution. We must not start saying now which should come first. What is important now is that as Lebanese we must sense our role and our importance, continue our resistance, not to be afraid, not to retreat, not to surrender, and not to run away. Perhaps we still have some more road to cover and a few more difficulties to overcome. In the end we are the ones who will make the security and accord and reunite Lebanon.

DAMASCUS REPORTS ON POSSIBLE HALT OF U.S. AID

JN100818 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Text] Washington--The foreign aid subcommittee of the Senate's [as heard] foreign relations committee yesterday voted to cancel U.S. financial aid to Syria amounting to $130 million. This is an indication that the United States disagrees with Syria's opposition to the U.S. policy in the Middle East and Syria's role in the fighting which recently broke out in Lebanon.

REUTER says that Republican Senator Fenwick and Democratic Senator Tom Lantos [titles as heard] have made this proposal as an indication that the U.S. Congress disagrees with Syria's policy. The subcommittee's recommendation will be submitted to Congress and U.S. President Reagan for final approval.

It is to be recalled that Syria did not ask for any aid from the United States.

JORDANIAN BA'TH PARTY ATTACKS KING'S REGIME

JN160919 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Amman--The Ba'th Party Regional Command in Jordan has stressed that the party represents the Arab masses' aspirations for establishing a liberated Arab society and has come as a response to the deprivation, hardships and loss experienced by the Arab masses.

In a statement on the occasion of the Ba'th Party's 34th anniversary, the Regional Command stressed that the Jordanian arena has had a large share in the Ba'th Party's establishment and its spread. It mobilized the workers, peasants, intellectuals, patriotic officers and the free soldiers and waged a fierce struggle against enemy alliances, particularly the Baghdad pact and colonialist presence.

The Jordanian masses have also stressed that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has always been the voice that rejects all conspiracies which emanate from the Basman and Raghadan Palaces against our Arab nation and its pan-Arab cause, the cause of the Palestinian Arab people.

The Regional Command urged the Arab people in Jordan and their progressive forces to move from their positions as bystanders to positions of confrontation against the policy of the present regime, which is leading Jordan to positions of capitulation to the enemy and to conspiracies against the Palestinian cause through the so-called Jordanian option and against the progressive and patriotic regime in Syria by supporting the gang of treason and crime, the gang of the Muslim Brotherhood organization, which is sowing corruption in Jordan as if it is the one which rules Jordan.

The statement calls on the Jordanian nationalist political parties to organize their forces and mobilize all the Jordanian masses for the struggle to build a democratic, progressive Jordanian Arab homeland that will participate with the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation in establishing militant relations with the PLO, the Palestinian Arab people's sole and legitimate representative.

Concluding its statement, the Regional Command says that 34 years have passed since the establishment of the party, during which it has achieved major steps on the road of the struggle. The party will continue its struggle until it purges all the Arab land of all the intruders and agents, until Palestine returns to its owners and until our objectives for liberation are achieved.

BEGIN INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON, AWACS, SINAI FORCE

TA152023 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Interview of Prime Minister Mehahem Begin on the weekly Moqed program by moderator Eli Nisan, political correspondent Elimelekh Ram and Mabat news editor Ya'aqov Ahime'ir--videotaped in Jerusalem 15 April]

[Excerpts] [Nisan] good evening. This evening we are pleased to host Prime Minister and Defense Minister Menahem Begin in the Moqed studio. Good evening, Mr Prime Minister.

[Begin] Good evening.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, on the issue of Lebanon: Recently, on various occasions, you have commented on Israel's deep commitment to the Christian minority in Lebanon. Can you define what the borders of this commitment are?

[Begin] I have always spoken about a moral commitment and I insist on this concept. There is an army of conquest in Lebanon--a Syrian one. At one time several years ago, the Americans, for example, thought that it was in fact a peace force preventing a civil war. Recently the Americans, our friends, also admit that this is not the situation and that the Syrian Army is not a stabilizing force; on the contrary. As the secretary of state said, it has proven all its brutality in its indiscriminate murder of men, women and children by heavy artillery, by missiles and tanks, and there is 'Arafat's organization of murderers there. I use this term in order not to say--in accordance with the accepted but shocking jargon--PLO. The L stands for the world liberation. What sort of a liberation organization is that? After all, there has been no more bloodthirsty organization since the time of the Nazis. For them it is acceptable to murder men, women and children. That is not only its main aim but its only one; and the Christian minority has always, over the last few years, stood in danger of its very existence. So Israel has helped it to defend its existence. When I say Israel, to tell the truth and for the sake of justice, it is my duty to stress that it was the previous government that began offering help to the Christian minority, the government headed by Mr Rabin. Our government not only continued but indeed increased that aid. We, members of the Jewish nation, know what a threat to our existence is and what it is to carry out murder of men, women and children. So not only can we not be indifferent to such phenomena, we cannot leave other nations to their indifference. And I can say that, as a result of what we have done over the last 2 weeks, there is an arousal, first of all, in the United States of America but also in Europe. And people who stood aside and left us to be the only ones who helped the Christian minority understand today that this is an insufferable situation--that there is a sort of slaughter of innocent people, women and children. So this Israeli moral commitment exists.

[Ahime'ir] Sir, you spoke about Israel's moral commitment and it certainly does exist, but what circumstances would have to be created for Israel to intervene in Lebanon physically to defend Christians? For example, in Zahlah? There have been people in our public life who have called on Israel not to stand aside.

[Begin] Yes, sir. We have not stood aside for even 1 day and we have extended aid. But I want to tell you that sometimes there are questions that, if you answer them, particularly when you are fulfilling a serious, national, responsible post, can harm the matter. Thus, I ask you to release me from giving an answer other than the one I have already given.

[Nisan] There is a question in the light of the aid Israel is providing to Major Haddad. Major Haddad is conducting independent activity in southern Lebanon. Does the danger not exist that Major Haddad in his actions will drag Israel--against its will--into over-involvement in Lebanon?

[Begin] First of all, no one drags us; and if someone were to try, we would simply not be dragged. There was a famous Russian writer who said: You frighten me but I am not afraid. We may say the same by extension: If someone tries to drag us, we shall not be dragged. We make our own decisions. As for the forces of Major Haddad, we naturally assist them and there is no need to hide this. On the contrary, we are proud of it. Incidentally, it is not just Christians who are threatened but also Shi'ite Muslims, who are friends of Major Haddad. Certainly we have influence over him, but he once said: We are not part of any country, including Israel; we are fighting for our survival and no one can give us orders. Therefore, we tell the truth to anyone who comes to us with some complaints about our relations with Major Haddad: We do have influence, and if we exert it, it is in favor of refraining from any attack on UNIFIL--which must be respected and which has the task of making peace. There are several UNIFIL units--not all of them--which are very active against 'Arafat's murderous organization and prevent them from approaching the territory of Haddad and of Israel. They disarm them and send them back. Within the UNIFIL lines there are hundreds of terrorists and they are equipped with arms. UNIFIL should not be adversely affected; and when they have the opportunity to prevent some act, we prevent it. [sentence as heard] These are also the orders that have been issued to all the army commanders who are operating in the north, and they know it. I hope that this is how things will be and there will be no attacks by Haddad's men.

[Ram] Mr Begin, in your view can the AWACS deal between United States and Saudi Arabia be prevented?

[Begin] We are conducting this campaign determinedly. When the secretary of state was here we devoted a considerable part of our talks to this. We said to him simply: According to our experts, if the AWACS aircraft go to the Saudis, Israel will be exposed to them. Saudi Arabia is considered by some countries to be moderate. That is ironic, for regarding Israel it is one of the most extremist countries in its hostility toward us, following Libya. It was from Saudi Arabia that the call for a jihad--a holy war, as it were--against Israel emanated, calling for the liberation of Jerusalem, which needs no liberation because it is already liberated. Now, everyone has free access to the places holy to his faith.

The Saudis also took part in all the wars against Israel. They are among the most acute and most extreme enemies we have. They have made themselves into a confrontation state. If they receive these sophisticated spy planes, they will see everything in the State of Israel--every airfield, even every plane lifting off. This is a very serious danger because they are also liable to give the photos to Arab states.

So we said that you must know that we are friends, we are allies, we help each other, we are not obligated to let these differences of opinion reach the stage of a rift. But you must know that this endangers Israel's security in the gravest manner, so please reconsider the matter. Yesterday a delegation of senators was here, headed by Senator Baker, who was once minority leader--currently the Senate Majority Leader--and whom I have known for some years. Answering the question he asked of his own initiative, we explained to them the danger. Afterward, although I did not hear his remarks myself, I was told what he said by my friend--he told the press and I think, Mr Ram, that you took part in that news conference--he said that the forces in the Senate are equal. Well, this is a situation that leaves room for hope. As the Washington POST wrote in an editorial today, the administration will nonetheless reconsider the issue and will not submit the proposal to the house of Congress. [sentence as heard]

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, how do you explain the fact that the U.S. administration--this is actually, I believe, a promise made by the previous administration but the present administration is continuing to honor it--is supplying AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia, planes which, according to your own terms, greatly endanger Israel's security?

[Begin] It is not yet supplying them. It has not even submitted a proposal to the Congress. You must know that once the proposal is submitted there are 50 days for congressional discussion and if the Congress so decides, the deal will be implemented. But as I noted, Mr Baker, who is the majority leader, says that the forces are balanced, so there can be no knowing the outcome. I wish to say that sometimes there are differences of opinion between friends and allies, as we emphasized. In general, this administration is very friendly--and I am not speaking against the previous administration here, which also did much for Israel and this should not be forgotten, but now there are new emphases and I want to indicate several of them. For example, the role of Syria in Lebanon: The previous administration thought that Syria was a stabilizing factor, while this administration has voiced very sharp remarks through the secretary of state on the brutality of the Syrian attack. I think that the United States today regards Syria as a Soviet base; and no wonder because they know that besides the 2,600 tanks the Russians have supplied to the Syrians--among them some very advanced ones, such as the T-62 and the T-72, which is the most advanced and perhaps the best today--they have also stored 1,000 tanks in Syria, as they have stored 2,000 tanks in Libya. The administration is not hiding the fact that it does not view Syria as a positive element in Lebanon.

Regarding 'Arafat's murderous organization, the administration definitely views them as Moscow's emissaries. We supplied them material to prove that the Russians are supplying heavy and sophisticated arms to that murderers' organization: Katyushas, trucks with 40 launchers, and tanks--they have recently received between 50 to 60 tanks, which even if they are not the newest models, a tank is still a very serious weapon with its cannon. So not only do they supply instructors but they also give them arms and they call each other allies.

So this is also something positive for Israel [that the United States takes this approach]. But on the matter we were speaking about--the supply of offensive instruments for the F-15, as well as the AWACS spy aircraft--we have differences of opinion. The administration will have to decide; and the Congress, according to the Constitution, will have to decide.

[Nisan] If we could return to that issue, Mr Prime Minister--I mean the arms deal with Saudi Arabia--the forces in the Congress are, it is true, balanced. If there is a fight, would it be good from Israel's viewpoint to enter into a confrontation with a new, popular administration, if we recall the fact that in 1978 there was such a confrontation over the tripartite aircraft deal and in that case, to put it crudely, Israel got the worst of it?

[Begin] No, I do not think there needs to be a fight between us and the United States. If the U.S. Congress uses its authority and makes a decision, can this be called a fight between us and the United States? What are we doing? We are, for example, explaining to the administration, that is, to the executive authority, and we are explaining to the members of the Congress, the legislative authority--especially if they themselves raise the question--the expected danger to this country that they have just called an ally and a friend.

Or, as Mr Haig said when our foreign minister received him at a dinner in Jerusalem, we have a permanent alliance, a permanent alliance [last three words in English]. So why are you doing such a thing to us? This is what we are explaining. There is no reason why this should lead to a freeze but we must explain it and this is what we are doing.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister perhaps to another issue: In another year, in April 1982, the final evacuation of the Sinai by Israel's forces will be implemented. Has any sort of promise been given to Egypt, verbally or in writing, before this date, that Israel will not destroy the installations in those places and transfer them as they are?

[Begin] No, no. No promise has been given. We do not have to give any promise. All that will be considered. What can be evacuated, what cannot be evacuated. But I do want to tell you that that date is linked with the creation of an international force. In fact, it was like this: the peace treaty discusses the establishment of a UN force to be situated in two places: in the south, around Sharm ash-Shaykh, and in the north. That is one of our security arrangements, apart from the demilitarization of a large section of Sinai and the thinning-out of the forces in another section of Sinai. These are security arrangements which we regarded as essential and they were agreed upon by the Americans and the Egyptians.

But everyone took into consideration that it may be impossible to establish the UN force. Why? Because it has to be decided upon by the Security Council and the Soviet Union is in that and it has the right to veto. And it became clear, even before that, as former Secretary of State Vance informed us, that the Russians will apparently use that veto. We took this into account and in negotiations it was agreed that President Carter, in the name of the United States, would send a joint letter to President as-Sadat and to me in which he would announce that, in the event that the UN force could not be established, he would make all possible efforts for a multinational force to be established. That letter became an integral, indivisible part of the peace treaty. So, first of all, the multinational force must be established and put into operation. We said this specifically both to the Americans and to the Egyptians.

[Ram] Now, if that force is established--permit me once more to return to my question--will we, and let us be specific, transfer the airfields, with their buildings and installations?

[Begin] I think we have the full right to take every military building since, after all, the airfields are only supposed to serve civilian needs. Excuse me for the correction: the airfields should only serve civilian needs, but all these are details and there are people who are dealing with them. When the time comes we will make the suitable decision.

[Ram] Will we receive financial compensation if we leave the buildings as they are?

[Begin] That is also one of the details. We have not yet raised that question. We have time for that; these are details. The main thing is the multinational force, because not only is it a part of the peace treaty, it is also a part of the security arrangements.

[Ahime'ir] There may be yet another interesting detail. Reports have been published in foreign papers that Israel may receive a part of a U.S. intelligence satellite and perhaps this will be an Israel satellite. Could you comment on this, sir?

[Begin] What could I say? If we receive it, I will be happy. I think that the idea is a very good one. But for the moment, I cannot say that, as you phrased it, we will receive it.

[Nisan] I want to ask you, Mr Prime Minister, whether you have a candidate for the defense portfolio if and when you form the next government? Or do you intend to retain both portfolios?

[Begin] If and when--that is a very popular term in Israel, and I accept it willingly. Well, did I want to hold the defense portfolio? After all, I need a majority and I offered the portfolio to one of my colleagues. I think he could have been a good defense minister but he refused. I repeat that to appoint a defense minister I require the Cabinet's approval. Even today I would appoint a defense minister--even before the elections--if I knew that my candidate would get a Cabinet majority. If and when...let me put it this way: If the people renew their confidence in us, and there is a prospect of this, and we form a government, then I shall certainly wish--in my capacity as prime minister--that there be a defense minister.

[Nisan] Who is he?

[Begin] When the day comes we shall decide.

[Ram] Do you have a candidate?

[Begin] Yes, there is a candidate, perhaps several candidates. But in the meantime I am holding this portfolio by law and I want to say that it is not at all correct that I allegedly devote just 1 day [per week] to security. I devote every day to security. There is also an excellent deputy defense minister who is dedicated and loyal. Through my military secretary I am in constant touch with the general staff. I maintain virtually daily contact with the chief of staff. I convene the ministerial defense committee very frequently--sometimes there are 2 or 3 such meetings of this important committee in 1 week. And this is the political echelon that makes the decisions regarding security-military issues. We are doing our best.

[Ahime'ir] I would like to ask a question regarding your capacity as defense minister. Articles have appeared in the Israeli and world press--articles which you perhaps have read--on very strained relations between the Jews who reside in Hebron and the Arab inhabitants there. There were reports of a series of very serious events, a negative attitude on the part of the Jews in Hebron toward the Arabs in Hebron. Did you as defense minister order that this situation be examined thoroughly and do you intend to act on this matter?

[Begin] The situation is under examination. I want to say that the truth is just the opposite. In principle the relations are very good and people respect one another. Sometimes, as happens everywhere in the world, there are certain incidents; and we must see to it that matters are restored to a peaceful situation. We want to live in peace and in mutual respect with our neighbors and I am certain that the good and loyal Jews who reside in Hebron and in Qiryat Arba' also want to live in peace and in mutual respect with their Arab neighbors. We shall definitely exert influence in this direction.

[Ahime'ir] Have you, sir, given orders that these reports be examined to see whether they are true, since they spoke of very humiliating acts?

[Begin] This is done as a matter of course by the governors. Sometimes I issue such orders, sometimes there is not even any need for them--they do it themselves. Sometimes they consult with me; they wish to know what my stand is. Sometimes I issue an order on my own initiative. Obviously there was an examination and there will be an examination of every incident. But you must not be misled by one or another incident.

[Ram] You have often declared that you will leave political life at the age of 70. Can we understand from this, Mr Prime Minister, that you will ask for the public's confidence in the elections for a government that will serve only 2 years under yourself?

[Begin] Nothing need by understood from this. That was my announcement and I have not changed it.

[Ram] If you resign after 2 years, does this mean a new government will have to be formed?

[Begin] Look, 2 years is a very long time. When the time comes, you will see that everything will work out.

[Nisan] The question is whether you should ask for the public's confidence when the Likud's candidate for Prime Minister declares in advance that he will serve for only 2 years. Who, then, is your successor?

[Begin] Listen, there is a democracy in Israel and there is democracy in the Likud. We are not a monarchy; we are republicans. So there is no successor. Everything will be arranged democratically.

[Nisan] Mr Prime Minister, perhaps we will end with a question which certainly arouses expectations. Will you be ready to appear in a television debate with Labor Party chairman and Alignment candidate for prime minister Shim'on Peres?

[Begin] Willingly. We had a television debate in this very studio 4 years ago. Definitely. It is very natural that we should appear together; and each of us will state his views; the nation will watch and listen and will make its decision.

[Nisan] Can we say that you are thus inviting him to such a debate?

[Begin] I do not have to invite him. At that time, I think, the two parties were in contact--the heads of the information branches--and they decided between them how to arrange it. This year, too, they should work out how to set up the meeting. In any event, I am ready and prepared.

'TERRORIST' BALLOON DOWNED INSIDE LEBANON

TA161027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] On today's terrorist attempt, the IDF spokesman reports that the terrorists tried to enter our territory at about 0430 [0230 GMT] in the morning and their intention was to perpetrate a terrorist act for bargaining purposes. The balloon, which contained two terrorists, was downed by antiaircraft fire west if Kibbutz Ramim, inside Lebanese territory, before the terrorists were able to get inside Israel's territory. They were killed after a short pursuit. They were found in the possession of manifestos, a regional map and personal arms, an M-16 assault rifle and a Kalashnikov with antitank grenades. They also had a submachine gun with a silencer, about 10 handgrenades and bulletproof vests.

Reponsibility Claim

TA160832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Excerpt] A small terrorist organization, the Front for the Liberation of Palestine, claimed responsibility for sending the balloon into Israel's territory. This organization also claimed responsibility for sending gliders into Israel a few months ago. The balloon which attempted to enter Israel's territory this morning was downed by an IDF force.

Syria Implicated

TA161016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori has accused Syria of being responsible for the attempts at aerial penetration into Israeli territory. He said there was no surprise in Israel about today's terrorist attempt to enter Israel by ballon. Tzipori said it is possible that the terrorists wanted to score an impressive success against the background of the Palestinian National Council session in Damascus. The deputy defense minister spoke with correspondent Bassam Ja'bar.

AIR FORCE ATTACKS TARGETS IN LEBANON 16 APR

TA161407 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] Israeli Air Force planes this afternoon attacked a terrorist base in the Ra's al-'Ayn area, about 5 km south of Tyre. All our planes returned safely. The IDF spokesman states that the pilots reported accurate hits on the targets set for them. The operation by the Israeli Air Force planes was designed to frustrate the organizing of terrorists and to prevent their departure for attacks. Our military correspondent adds that the base that was attacked at Ra's al-'Ayn is a terrorist base of operation, from which they dispatch squads by sea and by land into our territory. It was from this base that, among others, the terrorists who attacked Nahariyya in April 2 years ago departed and the terrorist who approached from west of Kefar Rosenwald about 5 months ago with the aim of killing and devastating the Moshav.

FINAL RESULTS OF HISTADRUT ELECTION REPORTED

TA161004 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Apr 81 p 2

[By Yehudit Winkler]

[Excerpt] The Alignment has increased its strength in the Histadrut by 5.9 percent in comparison with the election 4 years ago and gained support of 63.01 percent of the voters. The Likud (without RAFI) has been weakened by 1.32 percent in comparison with the election of 4 years ago and has gained 26.86 percent of the votes. Shinuy collected 2.2 percent of the votes, Hadash gained 3.58 percent, RAFI gained 1.21 percent, SHELI gained 1.36 percent, the Independent Liberals (this time without Ratz) gained 1.78 percent in comparison with 1.27 4 years ago. The final election results were reported for publication yesterday by Dov Ben-Me'ir, the chairman of the Central Elections Committee, after the results had been approved by the committee.

DAYAN SAYS MOVEMENT KEEPING ALL OPTIONS OPEN

TA121837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] MK Moshe Dayan, at a meeting of his movement's leaders today, stressed that the movement was not prepared to commit itself in advance to partnership in a coalition with any of the large parties and it was keeping all its options open, including that of sitting with the opposition. Dayan dwelt on the differences of opinion with the Alignment, which, in his opinion, wants a complete majority in order to implement concessions in Judaea and Samaria without guarantee of peace. He said he also disagreed with the Likud's position about autonomy and said Telem [Dayan's movement] had its own position between that of the Likud and the Alignment.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON FRONTLINE MEETINGS IN LUANDA

LD161246 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 0930 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Final communique of the summit meeting of the heads of state of the frontline states held in Luanda on 15 April]

[Text] The presidents of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia and the representative of Zimbabwe met in Luanda, Angola, on 15 April 1981 and held talks in a fraternal atmosphere, marked by cordiality. The president of SWAPO also took part in the talks.

II. The presidents reviewed the situation in southern Africa since the last summit held on 17 February 1981 in Lusaka. With deep concern, they analyzed three burning, interrelated matters:

A. The increase in aggressive actions by South Africa against the frontline states, as well as threats designed to destabilize and undermine their governments.

B. The continual refusal of the South African regime to implement UN Security Council Resolution 435 (1978).

C. The intensification of repressive measures taken by the illegal regime in Namibia and the creation of a new fait accompli in order to give its lackeys the appearance of legitimacy.

III. The summit examined the threats against and direct attacks on the sovereignty, stability and security of the frontline states. It expressed its particular concern about the attempts to destabilize the government [word indistinct] of the People's Republic of Angola.

In this regard, it affirmed its unconditional support for and solidarity with the government and people of Angola led by the MPLA-Labor Party. It solemnly called for scrupulous respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Angola, a member of the OAU, the UN and the Nonaligned Movement, as well as an invaluable member of the frontline states which has made and continues to make enormous sacrifices in the struggle for the liberty and dignity of Africa.

IV. The summit expressed profound concern over the reports that the Reagan administration is about to consider measures to destabilize the legitimate Government of Angola, giving assistance to Angolan lackeys and treacherous groups who are in the pay of the Pretoria regime.

In this regard, the summit considered efforts to revoke the Clark Amendment as a manifestation of this objective.

The summit denounced actions by the Reagan administration to destabilize the Angolan Government. Such actions against Angola are flagrant interference in the internal affairs of a member state of the OAU and the UN and a clear affront and challenge to free Africa.

V. The summit condemned the U.S. intention to consolidate its relations with South Africa at a time when the apartheid regime is engaged not only in systematically carrying out acts of aggression against independent African states, but also in training and equipping groups of traitors from the frontline states with a view to destabilizing their legitimate governments and, in the final analysis, to undermining the liberty of the African Continent.

VI. In this regard, the presidents noted with satisfaction the indignation and condemnation collectively expressed by the African states at the United Nations.

VII. The presidents of the frontline states reaffirmed their total support for SWAPO and called on the international community to redouble its efforts to give effective assistance to the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people so that it may continue the struggle more effectively on all fronts for the independence of its country.

The presidents noted with satisfaction the declaration of the ministerial conference of the Nonaligned Movement in New Delhi and the resolutions of the 26th ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Addis Ababa regarding Namibia. They emphasized the importance of the extraordinary meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Nonaligned Movement due to be held on 16 April in Algiers, and they expressed their confidence that the session would adopt practical measures to assist SWAPO and to mobilize the world community in support of the struggle for the independence of Namibia.

VIII. The summit reaffirmed its support for the UN plan as stipulated in Security Council Resolution 435, and it stressed the urgent need to implement this plan without delay, evasion, qualifications or modifications.

The presidents emphasized the responsibility of the five Western [as received] to ensure the implementation of the UN plan, of which they are the authors.

In this regard, the summit stressed the special obligation of the five Western [as received] to exercise necessary pressure on the South African racist regime to accept Resolution 435.

IX. The summit agreed on the need for continued and frequent consultations in order to make collectively every effort to upset all the maneuvres and schemes of imperialism and racism in the region.

ALGERIA

CUBAN ADDRESSES NONALIGNED PREPARATORY MEETING

FL150215 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0202 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Cuba today denounced the support of the new U.S. administration of Ronald Reagan for the facists of South Africa who are preventing the independence of the Namibian people. Cuban Ambassador to Algeria Oscar Oramas [as heard] spoke today in Algiers during the preparatory phase of the Nonaligned Countries' Coordinating Bureau ministerial conference to discuss the Namibia issue. The Cuban diplomat charged in his speech that Pretoria racists do not hide their intentions and some of the spokesmen, in a clear defiance of humanity, declare that they are not willing to deliver Namibia to its people and their sole and legitimate representative--SWAPO.

He said that the current (?position) of the representatives of apartheid can be explained. They have found, he added, public support from the new U.S. administration, which he described as a friend of South Africa.

Cuban Ambassador to Algeria Oscar Oramas said the enemies of Namibia's independence already have revealed themselves when they proclaim as an official philosophy that national liberation movements are terrorists.

The nonaligned countries' extraordinary meeting is taking place during a very tense international situation caused by the aggressive and bellicose policy of the Reagan administration, Oramas emphasized in his speech during the evening session at the Palace of Nations in Algiers. The Cuban diplomat stressed that the United States is directly threatening certain member countries of the Nonaligned Movement, is increasing the arms race, and the specter of a confrontation appears on the horizon.

He emphasized that the coordinating bureau should warn that any support for South Africa would seriously affect relations with member countries of the Nonaligned Movement.

Algeria has drafted the final declaration of the nonaligned countries conference which will be submitted for approval of the delegates to the ministerial meeting, which opens on 16 April. In this regard, the Cuban ambassador to Algeria said the document is a valuable and solid base for the issue to be discussed at the conference because it covers the essential points of the situation being experienced by the Namibian people's struggle. The Cuban representative to the Algiers meeting asserted that the struggle for elimination of apartheid and liberation of Namibia is universal and requires the most resolute solidarity.

The meeting on the preparatory phase of the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau ministerial conference to discuss the Namibia issue is chaired by Mohamed Bedjaoui, Algeria's permanent representative to the United Nations.

PRESS AGENCY, TASS SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

LD132130 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] Algerian-Soviet cooperation in the information field has been enhanced with an agreement between the Algerian and Soviet press agencies. The agreement was signed today by the director general of the national press agency, Mohamed Brahimi, and the director general of TASS, Sergey Losev. This ceremony was held in the presence of our ambassador in Moscow, Al-'Ayyashi Yakir. Under this agreement, the two press agencies plan to exchange their respective outputs by direct teleprinter between Algiers and Moscow. This agreement constitutes the basis of a permanent exchange of information and a better knowledge of the realities of the two countries.

At the end of the signing ceremony, the two directors general stressed the importance of this agreement. Concurrently with the talks between the heads of the two agencies, the APS delegation visited Tashkent and Samarkand.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI VIEWS NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISERS

LD141414 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Apr 81

[Text] The leader of the revolution attended a meeting of the professional conference of agronomists. In his address to the agronomists, the brother leader said: We badly need revolutionaries, revolutionary agricultural advisers, and revolutionary doctors. He pointed out that students rebelled on 7 April 1976, and the workers rebelled in September 1978 by turning from hired hands to partners.

The leader pointed out that there are other professional quarters, but their duties are not up to the standard of the duties of the engineer, the agricultural adviser and the doctor. The leader said: Regrettably, up to now there was no revolutionary adviser and no revolutionary doctor. He added that this slogan was raised but was not applied. The leader attributed this lack of a revolutionary adviser to the lack of a revolutionary person in this medium. The leader said: The revolutionary does not come about by a decision, but by revolution and by applying it. The leader explained that the opportunity is now available to the revolutionary agricultural adviser, for wherever he goes he will find huge agricultural projects and that there are problems facing the peasants as a result of the complexity of agricultural processes. The revolutionary adviser should have all the means which would enable peasants and farmers to reach the required standard.

The leader said: Agricultural production bolsters the freedom of the peoples and confirms their independence. Real freedom is economic freedom--which is confirmed by providing food and supplies. He stressed that America intimidated the world with wheat. There are continuing battles caused by America challenging the peoples. Despite the human, water and soil potentials in the Arab homeland, which could enable it to export its products to the world, regrettably we find that the Arab nation is not yet aware of this great target. The enemy is gathering more of the sources of soil and water in the Arab homeland. He said: (?Through) the revolution an extensive process of reclamation took place. (?Clouds were mobilized), new water sources were discovered and dams were built. Despite this, because of the lack of revolutionary agricultural advisers the peasants are unable to better exploit the huge potentials available.

MAURITANIA

ARAB LEAGUE'S KLIBI ARRIVES ON MEDIATION MISSION

AB161025 Paris AFP in French 0919 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 16 Apr (AFP)--Mr Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, arrived in Nouakchott on Wednesday night on the first stage of his mediation mission between Morocco and Mauritania. This mission follows the breaking of diplomatic relations between Mauritania and Morocco after the abortive coup in Nouakchott on 16 March. It is recalled that Mauritania accused Morocco of being the instigator of the coup, and it sent protests to the Arab League, the United Nations, the OAU and the Nonaligned Movement. The secretary general of the Arab League, who was met by the Mauritanian minister of information, was received by the head of state, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala. Mr Chedli Klibi will hold a tete-a-tete with Mr Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara, head of the Mauritanian Government, followed by a luncheon. His stay in the Mauritanian capital ends on Thursday afternoon.

OPPOSITION GROUP PROTESTS PROPOSED SAHARAN MERGER

AB152035 Paris AFP in French 1053 GMT 14 Apr 81

[Text] Paris, 14 April (AFP)--In a communique issued in Paris on Tuesday, the Alliance for a Democratic Mauritania (AMD), a movement opposed to the government of Colonel Haydala, protested against Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's proposal last Monday for a merger between Mauritania and the Saharan Republic. The AMD believes that Mauritania would then serve as a base for the Polisario army, which is falling increasingly under the control of al-Qadhdhafi, and it wonders whether the whole world will allow Libya to grab the vast Mauritanian territory and its rich mineral resources.

MOROCCO

HASSAN MEETS WITH OAU CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL

LD151356 Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Errachidia, 15 Apr (MAP)--King Hassan II of Morocco received here Tuesday afternoon, Mr Siaka Stevens, president of Sierra Leone and acting chairman of the Organization of African Unity (O.A.U.), with whom the sovereign had tete-a-tete talks. An enlarged session followed, with the participation of both countries' delegations and in the presence of Mr Edem Kodjo, secretary general of the O.A.U.

It is to be recalled that President Stevens and Mr. Kodjo had arrived Monday in Marrakech, and left Tuesday for Errachidia to meet King Hassan who is undertaking a tour in the provinces of Quarzazate and Errachidia.

Later Tuesday afternoon, President Siaka left Errachidia for Freetown. Before departure, Mr. Stevens declared to newsmen that he was happy and satisfied with his visit to Morocco, and that King Hassan had explained to him Morocco's position over a number of African issues, mainly the situation in North West Africa.

He also expressed thanks to King Hassan and the Moroccan people for the warm welcome reserved to him and the delegation accompanying him. Mr. Kodjo left Errachidia Tuesday for Casablanca that he is to leave this Wednesday.

HUNGARY'S GARAI COMMENTS ON TALKS IN MOROCCO

LD141335 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 7 Apr 81 p 3

[MAP report: "Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Leave Morocco"]

[Text] Casablanca, 7 April--Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Robert Garai left Casablanca's Mohammed V International Airport Monday morning following a 1-week official visit to Morocco. In a statement released before leaving, Mr Garai stressed that his talks with Moroccan leaders took place in a "cordial and sincere" atmosphere.

He said he was "very touched" by the welcome given to him and the delegation that accompanied him. "We noted," he said, "that our viewpoints on the subjects discussed were very close."

With regard to bilateral relations, Mr Robert Garai said he was convinced that "the talks that he had during his stay in Morocco will help to promote and intensify them, particularly in the economic field." [as published] It should be pointed out that during his visit to Morocco the Hungarian deputy foreign minister had two working sessions with secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr Abderrahmane Baddou.

Robert Garai was seen off by Hungarian Ambassador to Morocco Mr Pamuk and a state ministry representative responsible for foreign affairs and cooperation.

Finally, in its communique the AMD calls on all peace-and justice-loving nations to raise their voices and demand the departure of foreign troops from Mauritania and the immediate end to the "enterprises by Colonel al-Qadhdafi aimed at making" our country a pawn in his united states of the Sahel, which will thus serve as an extension to his zone of influence in Africa.

TUNISIA

MZALI SAYS PARTY SHOULD PURGE OPPORTUNISTS

LD101748 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Speech by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali at the extraordinary congress of the Socialist Destourian Party in Tunis--live]

[Excerpt] The crises we have lived through during the past two decades and indeed since the dawn of independence were due all the time to unlawful ambitions by some indivuduals. Some people, God forgive them, believe that the party is no more than a means to attain high office. Furthermore, some who are skilled in political games have chosen the course of supporting men who are rising. Thus they dress themselves in suitable attire for the four political seasons. These people believe they can form power centers that serve the interests of this or that. But they have forgotten that Bourguiba is the party and the party is Bourguiba.

Thus, to save the party's energy and to insure its rejuvenation the party, this Bourguibian party, must be purged of those who consider it just a steppingstone to greater and higher positions. The party must be purged through democratic elections and open dialogues. We must purge it of all the meak and all those who change colors like salamanders. We must do so openly and ruthlessly. We must return the party to its original Bourguibian spring. We must cleanse and purge it from all this pollution. I have said this before and say it here again.

Brothers, I believe that once we purge our party by democratic means, we can attract new capabilities and energies. We can attract the youth. Many of the youth of Tunisia were born after independence. They have not witnessed the era of struggle. They have not experienced imprisonment nor sacrifices. They view the party through its leader and through its program. They adhere to that, but when they meet with some individuals and some quarters and learn of certain practices, they suffer a shock and begin to become suspicious. Youth are incapable of differentiating between the leadership and programs of the party and the behavior of some of the party members. Thus we all must work so that everyone of us occupying a responsible position, be it high or low, should by his allegiance, courage and cooperation with the others be a Bourguibian. [applause]

We have to exert efforts by ourselves so that we purge ourselves from the evils of opportunism and so that we may gradually live up to the level of the expectations of the president in us, on the one hand, and to those of future generations, on the other. For without interaction and reciprocation of confidence and trust with the youth, be they in the universities, in schools, fields and plants, the party, God forbid, will suffer from a lack of support.

For this reason only those who serve the public interest should enter the party. The party should consist only of those who want to serve the people and not use the people to attain other ends. [applause] [remainder of speech indistinct]

OPPOSITION MOVEMENT INTENDS TO FORM PARTY

LD131007 Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Apr 81 p 4

[By correspondent Michel Deure]

[Text] Tunis--Less than a week before the extraordinary congress of the Destourian Socialist Party, which is due to reaffirm the policy of "openness", the opposition Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS) has reaffirmed its intention of forming a political party. In a statement signed by its Secretary General Ahmed Mestiri, published Monday 6 April by the weekly AL-MUSTAQBAL, the movement's Provisional Committee asserts its intention "of continuing the struggle to form a political party and make political pluralism a concrete reality" and demands chiefly respect for the constitution "in an effective way, especially in the exercise of public and political liberties."

The MDS, which congratulates the government on "the series of sincere measures" it has taken aimed at committing the country to a democratic process, also wants a renewal of the National Assembly (whose mandate does not expire in principle until 1984) which, it is believed, should be recommended by the party congress. It further adds that "free and democratic elections should be organized under the auspices of a national coalition government", thus implying that it would be ready to participate as a party in a ministerial formation even prior to consultation.

Taking up again the idea of a "national pact," which it launched almost 4 years ago now, Mestiri's movement proposed calling "a national conference" with the participation of representatives of all political currents "committed to the democratic option," whose aim would be "to define the bases for the exercise of democracy" and which would lend a "representative character and efficiency" to state institutions in the future.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO'S FADEL CRITICIZES OAU MOROCCO POSITION

LD151638 Tripoli JANA in English 1537 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Paris, 15 Apr (JANA)--Ismail Fadel, the Polisario representative in Europe, has declared that the Organization of African Unity must assume its responsibilities to impose respect for its Charter and put an end to Morocco's expansionist policy, obstinacy and refusal to comply with international laws. Fadel added that the Polisario has informed the O.A.U.'s chairman and secretary general about its position concerning the recommendation put forward by the organization's Special Committee on Western Sahara, and noticed that the U.N. and O.A.U. resolutions on decolonization in the Western Sahara and the respect of the inalienable right of the Sahrawi Arab people for self determination and independence have not been applied yet because of the Moroccan regime's unwillingness to implement these resolutions.

Fadel also wondered why the O.A.U. decided to be tolerant towards the Moroccan stance while Rabat was still extending its aggression against the other countries of the region, as illustrated by the aggression on Mauritania on March 16 and the threats against Algeria voiced by the king personally in his speech on April 11 in Mohamid El Ghozlan.

SOMALIA

SIAD BARRE DECLARES READINESS FOR HORN TALKS

LD151156 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 15 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpts] Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, secretary general of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party and president of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR], said last night that the foundation of a healthy society consists of political awareness, increased scientific knowledge and a strong economy. Speaking on the occasion of World Health Day, 7 April, Challe Siad said good food was essential for a good and healthy life.

Referring to ways of fighting and preventing dangerous diseases, the president said that what is necessary is scientific knowledge, a sound economic policy and adequate equipment to overcome difficulties of this kind. Referring to the steps taken by the revolution during the last 11 years, Challe Siad said it had built a school of medicine and other medical institutions. The president said that although Somalia faces both manmade and natural obstacles, it is overcoming them through unity and understanding.

Turning to the Horn of Africa issue, the SDR president stressed Somalia's desire for a just and lasting peace in the Horn of Africa, a matter of paramount interest to the peoples of the region.

He went on to declare Somalia's readiness to participate in any talks which could bring about a peaceful solution. This is because the SDR fully realizes the importance and significance of peace.

On relations between the SDR and the Republic of Djibouti, the president said the two countries are linked by fraternal ties of long standing. He said Somalia fully and steadfastly supported the Djibouti people during their independence struggle and was one of the first to recognize that country after independence.

The president went on to point out that the allegation which forces hostile to the two nations are constantly making to the effect that Somalia is bent on harming the Republic of Djibouti is a baseless lie. He said: The SDR fully supports the existence of the Republic of Djibouti and is prepared to defend its people against anyone attempting to harm Djibouti's existence and sovereignty.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH DJIBOUTI

LD152200 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 15 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpt] Before the departure of the Djibouti delegation for Hargeisa, the Somali and Djibouti presidents signed a friendship and cooperation agreement in the fields of economy, transport, commerce, tourism [words indistinct]. The two presidents exchanged gifts demonstrating the fraternal relations between the two countries and peoples.

President Aptidon told reporters at the presidency that the talks he had with the Somali president in a free and open discussion resulted in complete agreement on most of the points, and the remaining points would be discussed later.

NIGER

KOUNTCHE SPEECH ON ANNIVERSARY OF ARMY TAKEOVER

AB151850 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 14 Apr 81

[Speech by President Seyni Kountche in Niamey on 14 April on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the army's assumption of power--recorded]

[Text] Nigerois, dear fellow citizens, two events of equal importance but with very different effects will mark the celebration of the seventh anniversary of the taking over of the country's administration by the national armed forces.

The first is saving our society from the morose world economic situation which is worsened daily by precise factors. The second is the realization of a project to which we have always accorded great priority, that is, the completion of the television network in our country. Unless there is a technical accident, we hope to welcome the (Libya and Mangali) centers into the big Nigerois family, to provide progressively the constituent and essential elements for the building of our national unity.

Soon after the armed forces took over the destiny of our country, I explained to you that the objective of the action was the future of the country, a future in which we could foresee equal opportunities for each citizen, the brightening of his personality, the complete exercise of his rights limited only by the demands of his duties, and with the assurance of effective defense not only his security but also the material conditions of his existence. The mandate that the national armed forces undertook to carry out requires constant patience. Periodically, we need to compound our efforts, our progress and especially our difficulties to obtain any objectivity in our resolute march toward a better future.

As is the case each year, on the same date and with the same objectivity, devoid of any self-satisfaction and [words indistinct], I have come here this evening to brief you on the country's problems, which are really your problems because they have direct effects on your daily lives and they can only be solved with your conscious and unreserved participation. We must devote important and particular chapters to aspects of the overall world economic order and the political situation in Africa which concerns us directly. I think it would be superfluous [words indistinct] the general state of the world at the beginning of this year, 1981. [passage indistinct]

It is enough for us to realize that we are faced with a general and unfavorable concept and that above all we have to rely on ourselves to overcome the consequences. This applies in particular to the agropastoral sector. The concerted efforts of our courageous farmers and animal raisers as well as generally abundant rains have helped to conclude the current agricultural campaign with encouraging results.

However, the fragility of this progress cannot be overlooked. Besides we have noticed that in spite of the appreciable overall surplus obtained during the last harvest of food products, the sale of these products was marred by serious tensions at some locations due to extreme factors. The strengthening of self-sufficiency in food production is therefore the essential priority. The Niger nation cannot exert itself and win respect for itself unless it can afford not to depend on others for the production of its food needs. It is necessary to have faith in our land, the fundamental element of our heritage and in short, the inseparable reality of the nation.

I know that this land is terribly fragile in certain places. During my recent visit to the northern part of the Niamey Department, I noticed the almost irreparable effects of desert encroachment. The former farmlands of Zamouganda and (Aouzourou) are naked.

Even the rains have deserted them. We surely have to summon the courage to rapidly restore life to our degraded lands. Fortunately, certain wide areas have begun to show the impact of regional production projects. It is the duty of farmers to put to advantage the huge financial sacrifices made for these projects by respecting the agricultural advice they receive and by making the best of any production project assigned to them.

But the adaptation of production to the needs of an ever-increasing population cannot be achieved from such projects. Very often the scarcity of agricultural manpower constitutes a restrictive factor. Such a situation is unthinkable, yet a large number of Nigerois turn a deaf ear to the repeated warnings sounded to them and wander to the urban centers of neighboring countries. Because of illusiory advantages they are willing to alienate their dignity by allowing themselves to be exploited by doing menial jobs with no future. All those who flock to the large cities to look for future-less jobs, and who submit to the constraints of a way of life divorced from their ancestral traditions, should get hold of themselves and return to our rural areas to help in the struggle for independence in food production.

But beforehand we must note that the current life in our countryside, with its tendency toward the destruction of the environment, must be changed by the adoption of a serious afforestation policy. A while ago, I suggested a contest to reward villages which have undertaken afforestation programs. We must go further. It is obligatory for each young Nigerois who enters school or begins work to plant a tree and to tend it to the end. It is obligatory for members of the same family, the mother and the father, to plant a tree or trees in their yards. It is unacceptable for houses, both in the towns and the countryside, not to have trees in their yards.

I, therefore, call on the Samaria [youth organization] the socioeconomic organizations, the benevolent societies, all lovers of water and plants, and all generous persons to confer nobility upon trees by planting them everywhere so that they may exist everywhere.

The administrative and traditional authorities will in the future supervise the scrupulous application of these instructions which will be turned into law. It is compulsory for schools to have wooded areas in addition to market gardens.

Now that our water policy has practically enabled all villages to have water and wells, it is no longer acceptable for them to look desolate and [word indistinct]. We must change the appearance of our villages by planting trees. It is a national duty which everyone must understand and apply.

Let us examine the other aspect of the same problem. My fellow countrymen, each one of you is concerned by the great struggle for restoration, rehabilitation, and production and you must all participate in this struggle in one way or another. Workers, employees, students, pupils, cadres and traders, forgo your pleasure, even modestly, to participate in agropastoral activities. Agriculture must become imperative for everyone. All our efforts must be coordinated, even those which individually contribute significantly to our self-sufficiency in food production. These actions must be aimed especially at reducing weather problems.

For its part, the state has already undertaken important measures by giving priority to hydroagricultural development by assuring the control of the water supply system. Numerous and new results in this regard will soon be achieved with the application of the [word indistinct] or (Lambarigigu) and the second phase of the common project. This effort is bound to increase but it is limited both by the need for favorable natural conditions and the very heavy burden of financing such projects.

That is why I hope that concurrently, all the possibilities for the cultivation of small pieces of land with minimum infrastructure will be used in the diversification of our food supplies. In several regions, traditional farming methods are used. This example must be followed in order to raise the level of market garden production and guarantee increased food production in an area which constitutes an essential ingredient to the nutritional balance.

The use of all our potentials in food and animal production is also essential because of the overall external economic situation. First, since 1975, Niger has undergone a period of rapid development with a very high growth rate, superior to the average growth rate of other African countries. This expansion was mainly based on the use of resources derived from the exploitation of our mineral resources. Each one of you has noticed the results of the use of all the extra resources gained from this sector to finance development projects; the schools, the wells, the dispensaries, the agricultural equipment and the cultural infrastructure which has grown these past years constitute tangible proof.

Unfortunately, the world price of uranium, which enjoyed a period of stability for over 2 years, has dropped sharply. Due to the resolute action of the government and the understanding of some of our partners, our losses have been partially compensated by our cash products. All the same, in the face of our efforts to equip ourselves, which requires the importation of new material, our revenues from exports are dwindling significantly. We must try to avoid any superfluous purchases abroad but rather must obtain the major part of our supplies from our own land--and I mean from our own land. Even with this, all our difficulties cannot be solved. Niger is not an isolated place. It is in close contact with other states also affected by weather changes and the economy.

Yet what situation prevails at the moment? In our area, agricultural production is faced with several difficulties due to accidental factors of [words indistinct]. There is a first [word indistinct] factor to which can be added the strengthening of the American dollar and consequently of the naira. Since grain is priced in dollars, the strengthening of that currency as compared to ours has led to an increase in the price of imported food products, particularly rice and sorghum. Even if we attain self-sufficiency to a large extent, our domestic market will be no less influenced by the level of prices outside our country. Therefore, cereals will be more expensive. I can understand the distress of the housewife who is faced daily with the increase in the prices of essential commodities and the reduction of her purchasing power.

The government is perfectly aware of this painful situation and is using all its means to keep the situation from becoming worse. Organizations such as the National Trade and Production Company of Niger (Copro-Niger) and the [name indistinct], whose influence has been largely reduced due to pressure on the increase in the prices of essential commodities, must play a vital role in this respect. All the authorities concerned have been ordered to remain very vigilant in order to supply the markets with produce on a regular basis. During this period of pressure on prices, any shortage would create a situation of insecurity. Therefore we must eliminate any form of profiteering and ensure that essential commodities are available in all markets. In any case, it appears that the disparity in prices is due to the level of the adjustment of supply and demand. In this perspective, an increase in salaries, even if some people are thinking of it, cannot provide a satisfactory solution to the problem. On the contrary, it can only give an extra impetus to the rise in prices and the increase may be even higher.

It is obvious that the government, which is constantly pledged to maintaining the standard of living, is following the evolution of this problem attentively and it will not fail, at the appropriate time, to take complementary measures to provide relief to the lower social classes.

Fellow Nigerois, concerning national security, we must adopt the same firm and resolute attitude aimed at maintaining the standard of living of our nationals.

The year 1980 was marked by very important political developments in a country near us. The prompt pledge of the solidarity among west and central African states in the face of threats to the fundamental principles of the OAU charter--respect for the borders inherited from colonial rule; nonintervention in other states' affairs--had undisputably positive effects. The Libyan authorities, who suffered the consequences of their numerous interventions in a difficult and (?delicate) political context, have apparently chosen to avoid challenging their neighboring countries overtly. It is obvious that they are first of all trying to consolidate their position. One may think that new spectacular moves to destabilize the countries neighboring on Chad are not imminent. This must, however, not at all be misunderstood: We must not relax our vigilance. On the contrary, now that African opinion has unanimously been mobilized and made overt intervention improbable, another form of direct or indirect subversive maneuvers may appear through the infiltration of agents, corruption, inciting tribal antagonism or subversive propaganda on radios. In this regard, a new strategy has appeared. I will mention the purchase of huge quantities of cereals in the region, under the pretence of granting aid to the Chadian people. In fact, this is aimed at creating the scarcity of such commodities in Niger in order to conjure up favorable conditions for destabilization. Important stocks have already been stored. Dear fellow citizens, you can thus understand that modern wars are fought with extremely diversified weapons. Guns are not necessarily the most commonly used weapons.

Indeed, we have taken measures to counter such maneuvers, and to ensure the integrity and security of the nation. As a matter of fact, we cannot forget that the enrollment of mercenaries into an army pompously called the Islamic Legion is still going on and they are being trained to the use of sophisticated arms, so we must never relax vigilance. When I say vigilance, I want you to understand every shade of the meaning of this word. You must understand that it is not only the concern of the state. It is everyone's business and must be exercised on every front at every moment. Unknown to you or not, the enemy is trying to turn you into agents working for his cause, which means the disruption of Niger. In this battle in the darkness, I can tell you that I trust my country because the signs observed so far are edifying and encouraging. We will build our Niger with our own hands and by the sweat of our brows. In spite of ideologies and in spite of nostalgic dealers in subversion, our nation will be built thanks to our sacred unity, our solidarity and our belief in a common destiny.

Fellow Nigerois, the major concern of Niger is, as you are aware, to address all its efforts to its development. Consequently, its constant policy is to maintain relations of neighborliness with all states in the region, without exception, provided that they have the same attitude toward us.

In this regard, we are very much interested in the restoring of firm institutions in Chad in order to make it possible for that country to control its own destiny and sovereignty and to maintain relations of friendship and cooperation with its brotherly countries. In this regard, one can perceive some improvement now and my greatest hope is that our Chadian brothers overcome the artificial differences between them and join their efforts in the reconstruction of their countries with the assistance of the OAU and the international community.

Concerning another region which is so dear to us--Western Sahara--I also express the hope for an end to the fraticidal war so that in compliance with the resolutions of the United Nations, the process of self-determination will be completed, because it is the only way to definitively eradicate the painful after-effects of an unsuccessful colonization.

I am also concerned about the fate of our brothers, who continue to fight in southern Africa for their human dignity and the right to assume their dignity. Several months ago, there appeared some hope with respect to the settlement of the Namibian problem.

Now the hope is vanished. On the contrary, the arrogance of South Africa's racists is being shown more and more overtly through their raids on neighboring countries with a view of maintaining the people of Namibia and Azania under subjugation. Such an attitude is encouraged by the equivocal stance of the Western member countries of the group of contact on Namibia. They must be careful, because far from serving their own interests, the double-sided stance on this issue will only end up harming the interests which they have hoped to save.

Countrymen, the effect of the world economic and political crises should not make us forget that our major preoccupation remains the construction of Niger and the instauration of the development enterprise. The activities of the national committee charged with studying the establishment of this deveveloment enterprise is making progress in accordance with my directives. A report which is in the planning stage will be presented in June. You will be able to apply the contents after knowing it and each and every one of you will be called upon to participate in the implementation of its directives. As I have already pointed out, the development enterprise is not the concern of a group, but a national affair as it is aimed at economic and social development.

We have to salute and stress the character of these preparatory works which undoubtedly provide for a great mobilization of all the socioprofessional categories and which has led to a high level of awareness of the problems of development and security. The latter is not considered in national opinion as a very essential element in protecting the gains of a new Niger and as the right guarantee for the national construction effort.

Moreover, cooperation at the departmental level, cooperation among members of national [word indistinct] and the consultative bodies set up to help the prefects have shown to be fruitful. Henceforth all problems of the regions will be examined at this level, especially the education problem, which presently faces sporadic resurgences in spite of all the efforts and the sacrifices made since (?7 years) ago, in order to provide the second cycle students with the best of materials. This should enable them to continue their education which is indispensable.

I want to be clearly understood on this point; in the new Niger society, we accept protest. It can even prove useful as the demonstration of an active vitality, of the willingness to participate in the efforts. Again it is indispensable. It falls within the context of accepting responsibility. But it must not degenerate into a sort of systematic opposition. Until now, the Supreme Military Council and the government, which desire to avoid unnecessary tension and to ensure a smooth school year, have not resorted to a brutal demonstration of authority. This attitude should not be misunderstood. Our main concern is to keep the academic year from disturbances, given the importance of our needs in all spheres. But this desired moderation must not be taken as the state's lack of authority. Certain problems demand a thorough examination and this will be done. It is therefore necessary to set up a [word indistinct] at the national level and eliminate all favors. The regional committees, grouped behind the prefects, will examine the final examinations in the higher classes in order to purify [words indistinct] to these conditions. The teaching institutions should not be overburdened with low level subjects which represent unnecessary stress in the classroom. Above all, instructions will be given to include civic education in the school program, this civic education being an indispensable element for teaching the youth true nationalism.

During my visits I had the occasion to notice the lack of civic information in our schools. The national anthem is the worst sung in the world. This is intolerable. Also, we have given instructions so that in the future all educational problems will be examined in a local context, either at the level of the school or the local adminstration. Here I wish to particularly remind the heads of educational institutions that their primary duty is to create an atmosphere of true dialogue between them and their students and between the teachers and their students.

In effect, appeals to higher officials should not be made until all attempts at dialogue have been exhausted. The heads of the schools should not forget their responsibilities as the nation expects a lot from them during this special era of national reconstruction.

I also call on parents to remind them that the education of their children begins at home and not at school. The teaching of (?nationhood), love for country, sacrifices and duties that go with belonging to a society and a country, is begun in the home and completed in school. Parents, do not run away from your responsibilities [words indistinct]. I affirm once again that each Nigerois should have a chance, but only when his personal efforts justify the confidence placed in him. The government is ready to undertake any reform in the educational system which corresponds to the demands of our development. It is also aware that whatever it does, students will always demonstrate and make demands. It is a [word indistinct] phenomenon that happens in every country and under any political regime.

In a developing country, the educational problem tends to be very serious because in so far as we have to pass through stages to recover an important loss, the difficulties encountered in the implementation of a satisfactory educational system are many. Criticizing an organization in the state of change [words indistinct] but let those who engage in that beware, because after criticizing they will in turn be judged by their successors. In this regard the Supreme Military Council and the government feel they must and can look on history with serenity. Each appeal will be heard and interpreted exactly. Niger cannot afford repeated disturbances in schools. Serious demands will always be examined in a constructive spirit. On the other hand, we will not tolerate those which may lead to subversion resulting in the fall of Niger. A certain number of discontented elements continue to clandestinely manipulate some young people. The Supreme Military Council and the government follow attentively [words indistinct].

Nigerois, the 7th anniversary of the coming into power of the national army takes place at a difficult period and I have not been reluctant to tell you the truth. But because we are used to (?open) examination of our problem, these difficulties are only temporary. This is also due to our determination to carry on our struggle successfully. Beyond this short-term misfortune that we face, we can notice some signs of hope. The first to be noted is the progress made in the achievement of self-sufficiency in food production, and, above all, the sure affirmation of a feeling of national unity.

As I said earlier, the [word indistinct] covered by the national television is an essential factor in bringing together all Nigerois to jointly participate in the national life by affirming their cultural personality. Here I would like to congratulate the technicians, both foreigners and Nigerois, for all their work. Sometime they worked under difficult conditions to ensure the realization of this project. We are sensitive to their efforts and we thank them sincerely. All over the country communication through the combination of image and sound is now permanent. There is the need for unity in development. We will overcome our present difficulties thanks to this unity. We will overcome subversion thanks to this unity. We will build a united happy and fraternal Niger which has always been our desire. Long live the national armed forces, the spearhead of the new Niger! Long live Niger! [end recording]

NIGERIA

LAGOS REPORTS COMMUNIQUE ON KEREKOU VISIT

LD160830 Lagos International Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] The Nigeria-Benin joint boundary commission is to be reactivated. In a joint communique at the end of the visit to Nigeria by President Mathieu Kerekou of the Republic of Benin the two countries agreed that the next meeting of the commission which will have full responsibility to examine boundary matters should be held in Lagos without further delay. Presidents Shehu Shagari and Kerekou also decided that postal and telecommunications links between Nigeria and Benin should be installed immediately.

With regard to developments in the West African subregion, the two leaders expressed grave concern at the situation in Chad and called on all foreign powers to refrain from acts which would undermine the stability of that country and impede its return to normality. On Namibia they expressed their determination to continue to work together in support of efforts by the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, to liberate the territory. The two presidents deplored the lack of progress in negotiations on the issue and called on the rich industrialized nations to reconsider their present attitude in the overall interests of mankind.

OYO STATE IMPOSES CURFEW FOLLOWING 14 APR RIOTS

AB152213 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] The Oyo State Government has imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on Eleke and (Nedakeke) in the Olaniyan central local government area. In a radio and television broadcast in Ibadan, this evening, Governor Bola Ige said that the curfew will be in force from tonight and that public meetings were banned in the area for 2 weeks.

The action followed riots at Eleke and (Nedakeke) yesterday, in which some people were killed, others injured and property destroyed. A three-man judicial commission has also been set up to look into the disturbances.

In the meantime, eight people have been arrested in connection with the riots. A Radio Nigeria network correspondent who visited the (?towns) today has said that the situation is still tense and members of the public are being molested by vigilante groups. Commercial vehicles in the town are off the roads and those heading for other states are being held up because of the blockade on the East (Sofondi) Road. After that policemen have been dropped into the town with the state deputy commissioner of police, who directs the operations.

OFFICIAL URGES DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

AB130921 Paris AFP in English 0912 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] Lagos, April 13 (AFP)--Edward Omotoso, the Nigerian head of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Communications Department, has spoken in favour of the development of nuclear energy in his country. Mr Omotoso, speaking in a radio interview yesterday, described oil as a depleting, wasting resource which runs out fast and said that it was desirable to develop alternative energy sources. Mr Omotoso, quoted by the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA, added that nuclear energy was very expensive and beyond the financial capacity of most developing countries.

ANGOLA

MPLA OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON U.S. POLICY

FL102024 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Interview by Cuban television correspondent Pedro Ventura of Henrique de Carvalho Santos, alternate member of the MPLA-Labor Party Politburo, secretary of its Central Committee and head of the Angolan delegation to the 16th congress of Czechoslovak Communist Party in Prague; in Spanish; date not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Carvalho, U.S. imperialism has been waging in recent times a much more aggressive policy in the African Continent, with South Africa as the spearhead of this aggressive policy. I would like your assessment of the situation.

[Answer] We can truly say that we are witnessing a different manifestation of the policy of the United States, of the present ruling clique headed by Reagan, toward Africa, especially toward the most affected region of the continent, the southern cone of Africa, which has consequences for our own country. I say a new manifestation because, we must say this in all sincerity, U.S. policy toward the southern cone of Africa has not essentially changed; it has only been camouflaged. It is a fact that the new U.S. clique, with its aggressiveness, threats, shameless interference in the affairs of other states, not only in the southern cone of Africa but also in Latin America, the Middle East, southern Asia, everywhere, has changed, has made its policies more aggressive.

And we ask ourselves: When they talk about favoring puppet groups in their subversive actions against our country, should we expect more than what they are doing? That is, for us, that support for subversion with South Africa as its spearhead, is within the normal limits of the past several years. A recrudescence of that aid can only be imagined in terms of direct, overt and barefaced aggression which will surely bring about other consequences. So as far as we are concerned, our people as well as our party view this situation with apprehension. In fact, this situation is of general concern to all progressive and peace-loving forces. We view the situation with a certain concern but we do not fear the enemy. We are preparing ourselves, we are adapting our lives and our economy for an eventual aggression from imperialism.

[Question] Thank you very much, Comrade Carvalho, on behalf of Cuban viewers.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA: CONFLICT NEAR UNLESS TERRORISM OPPOSED

LD160822 Johannesburg International Service in English 0300 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] The South African foreign minister, Mr Roelof Botha, says southern Africa is heading for a destructive military conflict unless the countries of the subcontinent decide finally to oppose terrorism.

Speaking at Silverton in Pretoria, he said the highest priority facing these states was the choice between bringing an end to terrorism or the undermining of one another through making land available to terrorists.

Mr Botha said he expected difficult and complicated negotiations over South-West Africa in the coming months.

In South Africa, the government would have to make rapid progress in the consolidation of the national states, and in other fields, over the next few years. Mr Botha said the congresses of the ruling National Party would have to decide whether the mixed marriages act should be scrapped or not.